Legislative Library
Ontario

# Royal Commissions & Commissions of Inquiry

## 1792 - 1991

# Royal Commissions

# and

# Commissions of Inquiry

# for the Provinces of

# Upper Canada, Canada and Ontario

# 1792 to 1991:

# A Checklist of Reports

Compiled and Edited

by

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and

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## Foreword

Royal commissions, or commissions of inquiry as they are now more frequently called, are appointed by the executive arm of government -- the Executive Council, i.e., the Cabinet -- to carry out full and impartial investigations of specific problems or issues and to report their findings so that decisions may be reached and appropriate action taken. Their origins can be traced back to the prerogative power of the monarch to order such investigations.

The reports produced by royal commissions and commissions of inquiry constitute records of considerable significance to historians, political scientists, teachers, librarians and other researchers. The topics dealt with by these inquiries range from the alleged corruption or misconduct of public officials to in-depth studies of broad issues such as education, hydro-electric power, municipal government and police.

This checklist records the reports of commissions published by the Province of Upper Canada (1792-1841), by the Province of Canada (1841-1867) and by the Province of Ontario (1867-1991). In all, 217 reports are listed complete with historical notes to enhance their usefulness. Five of these commissions reported during the period of the Province of Upper Canada and 15 during the period of the Province of Canada. From 1867, when the Province of Ontario was created, to 1991, a total of 199 commissions were appointed. Of these, 197 issued reports, one was cancelled and one had not yet reported.

This checklist is one of several publications issued by the Legislative Library to mark the 200th anniversary of the first session of the first Parliament of Upper Canada which took place at Newark (now Niagara-on-the-Lake) 17 September 1792. It is a companion volume to *Select Committees of the Assemblies of the Provinces of Upper Canada, Canada and Ontario, 1792 to 1991: A Checklist of Reports*, published concurrently.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the two principal compilers and editors of the checklist, Dawna Petsche-Wark, Reference Librarian, and Catherine Johnson, a former student employee of the Legislative Library and now a graduate of the Faculty of Library and Information Science of the University of Toronto, whose dedication and conscientious efforts went well beyond the normal call of duty, and to commend them for having produced this valuable reference book on the reports of royal commissions and commissions of inquiry.

Brian Land
Executive Director
Ontario Legislative Library

## Introduction

The publication of this checklist brings together a complete listing of all reports of royal commissions and commissions of inquiry issued from 1792 to 1991, relating to what is now known as the Province of Ontario. It supersedes two previous checklists published by the Ontario Legislative Library covering the post-Confederation period (1867 - 1984), and includes reports for the Provinces of Upper Canada (1792 - 1841), Canada (Canada West) (1841 - 1867), and Ontario (1867 - 1991). For the Province of Canada period, commissions pertaining solely to Canada East (Lower Canada) have been excluded. Included are all commissions established under the *Public Inquiries Act* and by Order in Council, as well as those established under the authority of other statutes of Upper Canada, the Province of Canada, and Ontario. Also included are those commissions not established under the above authorities but whose terms of reference meet the requirements of public inquiries. Departmental inquiries have been excluded, as have studies related to commissions.

Commissions are arranged chronologically by date of appointment. The form of title for the post-Confederation entries is the one that appears on the title page of the report. However, the majority of reports issued during the pre-Confederation period lacked precise titles and/or title pages, and thus the form of title varies and is appropriately noted.

Exceptions have been made to include two commissions: the first, the *Report on the Affairs of British North America from the Earl of Durham, Her Majesty's High Commissioner* and the second, the *Commission to Investigate Dealings between Patricia Starr and Tridel Corporation, and Elected and Unelected Public Officials*. The first commission's report, issued in 1839 and referred to as the Durham Report, was not strictly a commission of the Province of Canada; however, because the report led to the formation of the Province of Canada and had such a profound impact on the nature of the government in British North America, it has been included in this checklist. The *Report* was also printed as Appendix v.1 of the *Journals* of the House of Assembly of Upper Canada, in 1839. The second commission, although it was cancelled and never reported, set a precedent because of the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling that the commission's terms of reference made it, in effect, a criminal proceeding. This commission was included in the checklist because it was felt this precedent could limit the terms of reference for future commissions.

Each report has been assigned a unique number which corresponds to the references in the indexes. Reports for the Upper Canada (1792-1841) and Province of Canada (1841-1867) periods are prefixed by UC and PC respectively.

All existing Orders in Council for the post-Confederation period were examined in the Office of the Clerk of the Executive Council or at the Archives of Ontario. Orders in Council for the pre-Confederation period did not contain descriptive information which would enhance the bibliographic descriptions in this checklist and, therefore, references

to them have been omitted. Researchers wishing to locate these early Orders in Council may consult the National Archives of Canada, Record Group I (Executive Council Office) Subgroup E8.

All reports were examined in the Ontario Legislative Library and at the Archives of Ontario, and location symbols have been included for all entries. No attempt was made to establish other locations. Both locations are listed whenever both institutions held the report. Holdings information is included only when supplementary materials to the report(s) are held at these locations. The Sessional Paper numbers and dates have been included whenever appropriate.

The historical background notes summarize the circumstances surrounding the establishment of each commission, the major issues addressed and whatever conclusions or recommendations resulted from it. In most cases, the notes were compiled directly from the reports. In some of the more recent commissions, the *Debates* of the Ontario Legislature, and the Toronto *Globe and Mail* were consulted to clarify the reasons for a commission's establishment, and for public reaction to the report when it was released. Where legislation was recommended, the *Journals* of the Legislative Assembly were consulted for two to three sessions following the release of the report to determine if any legislation was enacted. Should there be any errors or omissions in this list, we would appreciate having them brought to our attention.

In preparing the entries, reference was made to several publications. Of particular value were the bibliographies of Upper Canada, Province of Canada and Ontario government publications by Olga Bishop, and by Hazel MacTaggart, and the inventories of Royal Commissions prepared by the Archives of Ontario. A complete list of sources consulted appears in the Bibliography at the end of the publication.

Acknowledgement should also be made to: *Federal Royal Commissions in Canada, 1867-1966; A Checklist*, prepared by G.F. Henderson (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1967) and to the checklist of *Royal Commissions and Commissions of Inquiry in Alberta, 1905-1976*, prepared by Christine E. Backhaus (Edmonton: Legislature Library, 1977), which were used to establish the style of entry.

The original checklist and supplement were compiled by Susan Waintman with the assistance of Ana Tampold. Historical background notes were added to the post-Confederation entries by Catherine Johnson. Dawna Petsche-Wark compiled the pre-Confederation entries and expanded and integrated the indexes for the period 1792 to 1991. Special thanks is due to Effie Kastris, Clerical Assistant, for her infinite patience and care in preparing this document for publication.

Dawna Petsche-Wark
Reference Librarian

## Location Symbols

OTAR Archives of Ontario,
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 2R9

OTL Ontario Legislative Library,
Legislative Building,
Queen's Park,
Toronto, Ontario.
M7A 1A9

# Province of Upper Canada
# (1792 - 1841)

## *UC-1 Commission Appointed for the Disposal of Forfeited Estates*

Enabling legislation passed on November 27, 1818. See: *Statutes of Upper Canada*, 59 George III, c. 12 (1818). See Acts related to Forfeited Estates in the *Statutes of Upper Canada*:

54 George III, c. 9 (1814)
2 George IV, c. 6 (1821)
2 George IV, c. 12 (1822)
9 George IV, c. 1 (1828)
10 George IV, c. 10 (1829)

**Commissioners:** James Baby, William Allan, Grant Powell, and Peter Robinson.

**Report:** Dated January 17, 1829, as cited in the *Proceedings of the Commissioners of Forfeited Estates*. Report not located.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the *Proceedings*.

**Legislative Library Holdings:** Proceedings only. Found in: Upper Canada, House of Assembly. *Journal*. 10th Parl. 2nd Sess., Appendix, 1830, p. 143-160.

**Historical Background:** For a discussion of this Commission see chapter seven in Olga B. Bishop's book, *Publications of the Province of Upper Canada and of Great Britain Relating to Upper Canada 1791-1840* (Toronto: Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, 1984).

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## *UC-2 Commission to Investigate the Claims of Certain Inhabitants of the Province for Losses Sustained by them, During the Late War with the United States of America, and the Other Purposes Therein Mentioned*

Enabling legislation passed on March 19, 1823. See: *Statutes of Upper Canada*, 1 Victoria c. 13 (1837-1838).

**Commissioners:** Joseph Wells, L. Foster, A. Baldwin, Thomas Ridout, and William Allan.

**Report:** Dated January 6, 1825. Found in: Upper Canada. House of Assembly. *Journal*. 9th Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix A, 1825.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report.

**Report Location:** OTL.

**Historical Background:** After the war with the United States of America, this commission was struck to investigate the property losses of the people in Upper Canada. The Commissioners attempted, on behalf of the government, to reimburse the people for their losses incurred during, or as a result of the war. The Commissioners set up a scale against which peoples' claims could be judged and then correspondingly valued. Most claimants received only partial reimbursements and some received nothing if the Commissioners deemed their claim to fall into one of the eight inadmissible categories of claims. It was felt that reimbursing claims deemed inadmissible would set a dangerous precedent; speculators, in future, might take undue risk for capital gain. At the time of the report, the "general" total number of claims considered was 2,473, with the amount awarded just surpassing £193,038.

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## *UC-3 Commission on Claims for Losses*

Enabling legislation passed on March 6, 1838. See: *Statutes of Upper Canada*, 1 Victoria c. 13 (1837-1838).

**Commissioners:** Alexander Wood, Robert Stanton, and Thomas Carfrae.

**Report:** Interim report. Dated February 23, 1839. 30 p. Found in: Upper Canada. House of Assembly. *Journal*. 13th Parl. 4th Sess., Appendix vol. 2, pt. 2, 1839, p. 651. Final report. Dated December 31, 1839. 30 p. Found in: Upper Canada. House of Assembly. *Journal*. 13th Parl. 5th Sess., Appendix vol. I, pt. 2, 1839-40, p. 492.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report.

**Report Location:** OTL.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Final and interim reports include appendices of evidence relating to claims.

**Historical Background:** This commission examined, case by case, the claims for losses resulting from the rebellion of 1837-1838, in the Province of Upper Canada.

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## *UC-4 Commission Appointed to Investigate and Report on the State of the Several Public Departments of this Province*

Appointed on October 21, 1839. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** Robert Baldwin Sullivan, William Allan, Augustus Baldwin, William Henry Draper, Richard Alexander Tucker, Robert Sympson Jameson, John Henry Dunn, John Macaulay, John Simcoe Macaulay, Levius Peters Sherwood, James Buchannan Macaulay, Jonas Jones, Archibald McLean, Christopher Alexander Hagerman, Charles Chichester, Henry Sherwood, John McCaul, Henry J. Grassett, Samuel B. Harrison, William Hepburn, and James Hopkirk (Secretary).

**Report:** Interim report. Each of the eight subcommittees submitted individual reports to the Commission. On January 24, 1840 they were combined together and presented before the House of Assembly as the final report. Final report. Dated January 24, 1840. [3], xii, 327 p. Found in: Upper Canada. House of Assembly. *Journal*. 13th Parl. 5th Sess., Appendix vol. 2, 1839-40.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report. 2. The Commission divided itself into eight subcommittees, each responsible for investigating a particular area ranging from the Inspector General's Office through to the Militia.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Reports of various subcommittees, and the *Report of Committee on Education*, January 22, 1840.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Report comprised of evidence and correspondence.

**Historical Background:** At the request of the House of Assembly, a commission was eventually appointed in October of 1839 to investigate into the organization and method of business conducted in public departments of the Province. Twenty Commissioners were appointed, drawn from various

occupational backgrounds. They were divided into eight subcommittees, responsible for conducting a thorough examination of a specific department or departments. Many recommendations were made.

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## *UC-5 Report on the Affairs of British North America, from the Earl of Durham, Her Majesty's High Commissioner*

Appointed on March 31, 1938 by Writ of Privy Seal, on the recommendation of Lord Glenelg, Secretary of the Colonial Office for Great Britain. See: Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons. *Parliamentary Papers* XVII, No. 3, 1839 for text of commission appointment.

**Commissioner:** John George Lambton, Earl of Durham.

**Report:** Dated January 31, 1839. 107 p. Found in: Upper Canada. House of Assembly. *Journal*. 13th Parl. 4th Sess., Appendix vol. 1, 1839, (follows Narrative by Sir Francis Bond Head).

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission taken from the report.

**Report Location:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Correspondence and commissions.

**Historical Background:** After the rebellions of 1837-1838 in Lower and Upper Canada, the two Canadas continued to remain in an unstable state. Sir Francis Bond Head, then Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada, failed in his commission to rectify the situation in Upper Canada. This, in combination with the continuing problems in Lower Canada and later on the suspension of Lower Canada's constitution, led to the appointment of the Earl of Durham by Lord Glenelg, Colonial Secretary of the Imperial Parliament. Durham was charged with inquiring into the colonial grievances of all the British North American provinces. His report, commonly referred to as the Durham Report, analyzed the causes behind the rebellions and made recommendations for resolving the existing problems and sources of conflicts. Most notable among his many recommendations were responsible government, the union of Upper and Lower Canada, and the creation of local or municipal governments. As a result of the report, Lower and Upper Canada united to become the Province of Canada, effective in 1841. Responsible government took considerably longer to implement, with the Imperial Parliament not formally recognizing it until 1847.

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# Province of Canada
# (1841 - 1867)

## *PC-1 Commission Appointed to Enquire into the Affairs of the Post Office in British North America*

Appointed on October 26, 1840. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** Edward Dowling, T.A. Stayner, John Davidson, and Christopher Dunkin (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated December 31, 1841. Includes appendices. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 2nd Parl. 2nd Sess., Appendix F, 1846.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report.

**Report Location:** OTL.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was set up to investigate alternative methods of handling the mail service within the Province of Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with a view to making recommendations for improving its efficiency and convenience to the public. Under the mandate of this enquiry was the examination of Post Office management, the personnel, the mail rates charged, and the routes mail was sent along. Also investigated were problems associated with mail service, in particular, the irregularity of mail arrival, the packaging of mail sent, and the collection and payment of postage on letters coming from, or going to, the United States. Several recommendations were made including increasing the number of Post Office staff and the lowering of postal rates.

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## *PC-2 Commission Appointed to Investigate Certain Proceedings at Toronto Connected with the Election for that City*

Appointed on May 25, 1841. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** William F. Coffin and Nicholas Fullam.

**Report:** Dated August 3, 1841. Includes appendices. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 1st Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix S, 1841.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report.

**Report Location:** OTL.

**Historical Background:** Two days following a City of Toronto election, a riot broke out close to City Hall resulting in the death of one person and injuries to many others. The inquiry investigates how the riot began, whether it could have been avoided, as was suggested at the time, and whether the city Magistrates and Police actions were sufficient in dealing with the outbreaks of violence that preceded the riot. Also examined was the role of the Magistrates and Police in ensuring public safety, and what could be done in future to ensure that this would not happen again.

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## *PC-3 Commission Appointed to Consider and Report what Alterations it may be Expedient to make in the Practice and Proceedings of the Court of Chancery in Upper Canada*

Appointed on July 20, 1843. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** J.B. Robinson, Robert S. Jameson, Robert E. Burns, Wm. Hume Blake, and J.C.P. Esten.

**Report**: Interim report. Dated April 20, 1844, as cited in text of final report. Not located. Final report. Dated January 25, 1845. Rules suggested for adoption by the Commissioners in the interim report, are included in the appendix of this report. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 2nd Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix JJ, vol. IV, 1844-45.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the final report.

**Report Location:** OTL.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Final report only.

**Historical Background:** Complaints had been received regarding the handling of court cases indicating that they were too lengthy and conducted at great expense to both parties involved in the legal action. The

Commissioners had suggested a series of rules be adopted, which had been included in their first report, which they felt would make the proceedings in Chancery "less dilatory and expensive." In their second report, the Commissioners continued to suggest means of improvement to the legal system as it existed at the time. It was felt that, by adopting a Court of Equity or Tribunal System, similar to that in England, certain types of cases could be more effectively dealt with than was possible under the existing system. Areas of law most likely to be affected were fraud, the execution of trusts, the performance of agreements, and the foreclosure and redeeming of mortgages.

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### *PC-4 Commission Appointed to Enquire into the State and Organization of the Crown Land Department*

Appointed on August 6, 1845. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** Denis Benjamin Papineau, William Morris, and James Henderson.

**Report:** Dated April 16, 1846. Includes appendices. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 2nd Parl. 2nd Sess., Appendix EE, 1846.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Appendices to report include correspondence.

**Historical Background:** This enquiry looked into the organization and state of the Crown Lands Department in the Province of Canada. Its purpose was to investigate and show how business was being managed regarding the sale and management of the Public Lands under Act 4 and 5 Victoria, chapter 100. As well it also examined the expenses incurred in the management of these lands. Brief references to the system used to dispose of public lands in the United States are given, and comparisons are made to the current system in effect in the Province. Management of the Clergy Reserves is also briefly discussed.

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## *PC-5 Commission of Enquiry into the Management of the Board of Works*

Appointed on September 5, 1845. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** Wm. Cayley, F.A. Quesnel, M.J. Hays, and J. Redpath.

**Report:** Interim report. Dated March 28, 1946. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 2nd Parl. 2nd Sess., Appendix O., 1846. Second report. Dated May 14, 1846. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 2nd Parl. 2nd Sess., Appendix P.P., 1846.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the reports. 2. The second report deals primarily with the Lake St. Peter improvements. It appears that the second report was the last report by the Commissioners, as no final report could be located.

**Report Location:** OTL.

**Historical Background:** This commission was established to investigate the Board of Works in the Province of Canada. Specifically included in its mandate was that appointments, employment and remuneration of the officers, engineers and other personnel be examined. Further, it was an investigation into how the projects undertaken by Public Works were tendered, supervised, and managed. The first report examined and reported on the issues raised in a general way; whereas the second report dealt specifically with the Lake St. Peter improvements and the dredging of the channel.

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## *PC-6 Commission Appointed to Enquire into and Report upon the Conduct, Economy, Discipline, and Management of the Provincial Penitentiary*

Appointed on May 26, 1848. Enabling legislation, *Province of Canada Statutes*, 9 Victoria c. 38 (1846).

**Chair:** Adam Fergusson.

**Commissioners:** Narcisse Amiot, Edward Cartwright Thomas, William Bristow, and George Brown (Secretary).

**Report:** Interim report. Dated March 16, 1849. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. Appendix BBBBB, 1849. Second report. Dated April 16, 1849. Includes appendices. Follows interim report in the same Appendix. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 3rd Parl. 2nd Sess., Appendix BBBBB, 1849.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the first report.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Appendices of the two reports include evidence and correspondence.
**Archives Holdings:** Both reports with appendices.

**Historical Background:** Complaints had surfaced concerning the cruel treatment of convicts in the Penitentiary and regarding the Warden, Henry Smith and his staff. The Attorney General, Robert Baldwin, called the inquiry to investigate these claims, and look into the general day-to-day practices and management of the Penitentiary.

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## *PC-7 Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Cause of the Fire at the Parliament Buildings on the First of February, 1854; and the Circumstances Connected Therewith*

Appointed on February 1, 1854. Enabling legislation, *Province of Canada Statutes*, 9 Victoria c. 38 (1846).

**Commissioners:** John William Dunscomb, Oliver Fiset, and George Futvoye (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated February 27, 1854. Includes appendices. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 5th Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix E, 1854-55.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Appendices to the report include evidence, correspondence, minutes of proceedings, drawings and advertisements.
**Archives Holdings:** Report with appendices.

**Historical Background:** After the parliament buildings were destroyed by fire, this inquiry was appointed to inquire into the probable cause, and to determine the amount of insurance coverage that existed for the building, furniture and library destroyed by the fire. The Commissioners concluded that the fire was most probably an accident.

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### *PC-8 Report of the Commissioners Appointed to Inquire into the Origin and Cause of the Fire at the Grey Nunnery*

Appointed on May 4, 1854. Enabling legislation, *Province of Canada Statutes*, 9 Victoria c. 38 (1846).

**Commissioners:** Dunbar Ross, Robert Shore Milnes Bouchette.

**Report:** Dated June 19, 1854. Includes appendices. Found in: (Canada) Province. Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 5th Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix E, 1854-55.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report. 2. The report follows the *Report of the Commissioners Appointed to Inquire into the Cause of the Fire at the Parliament Buildings, on the First of February, 1854; and the Circumstances Connected Therewith.*

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Appendices to the report include evidence, advertisements and drawings.
**Archives Holdings:** Report with appendices.

**Historical Background:** After the fire destroyed the parliament buildings on February 1, 1854, the government of Canada leased from the Archbishop of Quebec, the building known as the Grey Nunnery (or the Hospice des Soeurs de la Charité) for the sittings of the Provincial Parliament. It was at this site that a fire broke out on May 3, 1854. This inquiry was setup to investigate the state of the Grey Nunnery building prior to the fire, when the fire began, what measures were taken to prevent the fire, and the cause or origin of the fire.

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## *PC-9* *Commission Appointed to Investigate and Report upon the Best Means of Re-organizing the Militia of Canada*

Appointed on October 27, 1854. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** Allan N. MacNab, E.P. Taché, T. Edmund Campbell, and George Frederick de Rottenburg.

**Report:** Dated February 19, 1855. Appendix includes schedules giving estimates of costs to implement recommendations. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 5th Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix XX, 1854-55.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report. 2. Reference is made in the text of the report to the report of the *Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Conduct of the Police Authorities on the Occasion of the Riot at Chalmers' Church, Quebec, June 6, 1853*. For the text of this report see, Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 5th Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix G, 1854-55.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission investigated and examined the re-organization of the Militia in Canada, with the intent of making recommendations for a new system of securing Canada, and as well the current police system. Recommendations suggested the militia be organized in three broad areas, 1) Volunteer Militia, comprising Troops of Cavalry, Foot Companies of Artillery and Companies of Infantry; 2) Sedentary Militia, comprising Troops of Cavalry, Field Artillery, and Riflemen, and 3) Companies of Provincial Marine, who would in times of war secure the Province along Lake Ontario's shoreline. The Commission also reported that the Police Force was in an unsatisfactory state, and operated inefficiently, partly because of the Force existing in different areas of the Province. Consistency, absence of discipline, lack of proper gradations in rank, lack of rules, order and regulations for the government and managment of the Force were also considered partly to blame. Recommendations addressing these concerns were made.

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## *PC-10 Commission Appointed to Inquire into a Series of Accidents and Detentions on the Great Western Railway, Canada West*

Appointed on November 3, 1854. Enabling legislation, *Province of Canada Statutes*, 9 Victoria c. 38 (1846).

**Commissioners:** William Foster Coffin and Matthew Crooks Cameron.

**Report:** Dated February 7, 1855. Includes appendices. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 5th Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix YY, 1854-55.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Appendices to report include evidence and correspondence.
**Archives Holdings:** Report with appendices.

**Historical Background:** From December 12, 1853 to October 29, 1854 there had been several accidents and detentions along the Great Western Railway line. The accidents resulted in several damaged train cars and engines but also claimed many human lives. Up until the accident at Baptiste Creek, 25 people had been killed and more had been injured. However at Baptiste Creek, on October 27, 1854 a large collision occurred claiming an additional 52 human lives and further injuring another 48 persons. The inquiry was called shortly after to investigate all the deaths that had occurred during this period, to see whether any could have been avoided, and to learn what could be done in the future to improve railway safety.

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## *PC-11 Special Commission to Investigate Indian Affairs in Canada*

Appointed on September 8, 1856. Enabling legislation, *Province of Canada Statutes*, 9 Victoria c. 38 (1846).

**Commissioners:** Richard T. Pennefather, Froome Talfourd, and Thomas Worthington.

**Report:** Dated 1856, the month and the day are not indicated on the report. Includes appendices. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Journals*. 6th Parl. 1st Sess., Appendix 21, 1858.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission is derived from the report.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Appendices to report include statements from missionaries and the recent census return on various Indian bands.
**Archives Holdings:** Report with appendices.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was a fact-finding venture, to quantify and describe the native people and tribes in Canada, so that the government could determine "the best means of securing the future progress and civilization on the Indian tribes in Canada." It was also set to determine the best means of "managing the Indian Property, as to secure its full benefit to the Indians, without impeding the settlement of the country."

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## *PC-12 Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Affairs of the Grand Trunk Railway*

Appointed on November 21, 1860. Enabling legislation, *Consolidated Statutes of Canada 1859*, chapter 13.

**Commissioners:** John Langton, Justus Lewis Grant, Toussant Trudeau, and Thomas Wily (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated May 8. 1861. 318 p. Includes appendices. Found in: *Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Affairs of the Grand Trunk Railway*. (Quebec : S. Derbishire and G. Desbarats, 1861).

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report. 2. Toussant Trudeau's name did not appear as one of the Commissioners who had signed the finished report.

**Report Location:** OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Appendix to report includes evidence. OTAR also holds, Shanly, Walter. *Notes and Corrections to the Report of the Government Commission of Enquiry into the Condition and Management of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada.* (Toronto: Rowsell and Ellis, 1861).

**Historical Background:** The Grand Trunk Railway was suffering from financial difficulties, and as one of the largest railway companies in Canada, if not the largest, the Province was concerned. A commission was appointed to investigate the Railway's management practices. This involved examining the actual workings of the Railway and all its branch lines, the Railway's

compliance under the conditions of the *Relief Act* (20 Victoria c. 11, 1857), and its current financial position. The commissioners wanted to ascertain whether the company was going to be a commercially viable venture in the foreseeable future.

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## *PC-13 Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Matters Connected with the Public Buildings at Ottawa*

Appointed on June 21, 1862. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** Victor Bourjeau, Joseph Sheard, and David Stark, (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated January 29, 1863. Includes schedules and appendices. Found in: Canada (Province). Legislative Assembly. *Sessional Paper no. 3*, 7th Parl. 2nd Sess., 1863.

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report. 2. Plans mentioned in the report are not included. 3. Report follows the *General Report of the Commissioners of Public Works.*

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Appendix to the report includes evidence and exhibits.
**Archives Holdings:** Report with appendix.

**Historical Background:** The commission of inquiry was undertaken as a result of exceeding the budgets voted on for the erection of the Public Buildings. The investigation studied the management of the project, as there was a suggestion of extensive and unauthorized departures from many of the terms of some of the contracts. It specifically examined how tenders were received, any agreements or contracts entered into, all monies spent on the project, and an analysis of the decisions made respecting the project.

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## *PC-14 Financial and Departmental Commission of Inquiry*

Appointed on November 26, 1862. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** Thomas Storrow Brown, William Bristow, and George Sheppard.

**Report:** Interim report: Dated May 23, 1863. 53, 198, xx p. Includes appendices. Found in: Canada (Province). *First Report of the Financial and Departmental Commission* (Quebec: J. Blackburn, 1863). Second report. Dated February 11, 1864. 74, 105, xcvii p. Includes appendices. Found in: *Second report of the Financial and Departmental Commission*. (Quebec: J. Blackburn, 1864).

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the reports.

**Report Location:** OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Appendices to both reports include evidence and additional appendices.

**Historical Background:** Public money had been misappropriated several times by public departments over the course of years. However because repeat offences occurred by certain departments, it was felt that a full investigation into how public monies were being managed by the public departments was necessary. What ensued was a detailed investigation into how each public department recorded money going in and out of its possession, whether the individual department's recording method was adequate to ensure all transactions were dealt with consistently, and could be checked in future if required. Although the commission pointed out areas of weakness in the accounting methods used by the public departments, they did not appear to suggest alternative accounting methods.

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## *PC-15 Commission to Inquire into Railway Postal Service*

Appointed on December 16, 1864. Enabling legislation see: *Consolidated Statues of Canada 1859*, c. 13.

**Commissioners:** William Hume Blake, Charles Dewey Day, and Gustavus William Wicksteed.

**Report:** Dated March 29, 1865. 295 p. Includes appendices, proceedings and evidence. Found in: *Report of the Railway Postal Service Commissioners* (Quebec: G.E. Desbarats, 1865).

**Note:** 1. Title of Commission derived from the report.

**Report Location:** OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Report includes proceedings and evidence.

**Historical Background:** Several railways had arrangements to carry post office mail in return for compensation. However by 1864 the amount of compensation that had been previously agreed to by the railways, on August 12, 1863, was considered by the railways as insufficient. This inquiry was called to investigate the compensation given to the railways to carry mail. The commission investigated two areas: 1) the adequacy of compensation given for postal service by railway prior to the commission being appointed and, 2) the suggested compensation for postal services by railway for the upcoming 3 years. The commission agreed with the railway companies that current compensation rates were too low and also suggested that the rates should be greater for postal services by railway on the main rail lines than on the lesser used rail lines.

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# Province of Ontario
# (1867 - 1991)

## *1 Royal Commission to Inquire into Alleged Abuses Occurring in the Vicinity of Niagara Falls*

Appointed on June 24, 1873. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable E.B. Wood.

**Report:** Dated November 17, 1873. 6 leaves, manuscript copy.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Minutes of evidence, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** Complaints to the government had been received for years about the treatment of visitors to Niagara Falls by local businessmen and other operators of tourist attractions. This inquiry was appointed to investigate these complaints and recommend what action should be taken for the protection of visitors or persons resident there. The inquiry dealt mainly with a dispute between a hotel owner and a museum operator over rights to portions of the Niagara chain reserve directly in front of their properties at or near Table Rock which gave access and allowed them to conduct visitors to the foot of the Falls. The Commission was to determine whether the best course of action would be to grant licences or leases to both of these men or to just one or whether the government should withhold all leases to any private individuals and take over control and management of access to the Falls itself. After reviewing all sides of the issue, the Commission recommended "that the Government should itself assume the control and management of the chain reserve and of the descent to the foot of the Falls to the exclusion of all other persons." A small fee would be charged for this service and the money collected would be used to hire a Police Magistrate and 3 or 4 constables to put a check on the abuses and frauds practiced against visitors to the area. Although this was a better system than previously in place, abuses continued to be reported. Finally in 1887, the government took control of the whole area with the establishment of Queen Victoria Niagara Falls Park later to become the Niagara Parks Commission.

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## 2 *Commission to Inquire and Report upon the Financial Affairs of the Town of Belleville with Things Connected Therewith*

Appointed on January 21, 1876 under the *Municipal Institutions Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General. No indication of Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** A. Lewis Morden, James McKibbin. Original Order in Council 7/266 of December 13, 1875 appointed Charles G. Charteris and John J.J. Thompson under Section 275 of the *Municipal Institutions Act* of 1873. Both were unable to act.

**Report:** Dated April 23, 1877. 30, 8 leaves, manuscript copy. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Evidence, general correspondence.

**Historical Background:** In October of 1875 the citizens of Belleville, concerned over the apparent disappearance of money from the town Treasury, petitioned the government to investigate. The Treasurer, who had held office since 1870, had recently died leaving the town accounts in a mess. A commission was then appointed to make a thorough audit of the accounts and it was subsequently found that over $23,000 was missing. This Commission provides an interesting insight into the workings of local government at the time. Town officials demonstrated very little accountability and there were numerous opportunities for deceit. In Belleville's case it was alleged, but not proven, that loans were made from the Treasury to some town councillors and never repaid. Other irregularities pointed out by the Commissioners were that the Treasurer was allowed to draw large sums of money without indicating why, the tax collector was allowed to retain the tax rolls for several years without making any returns and could deposit money into accounts other than the town accounts, and virtually no supervision of the Treasurer was exercised. The report contains much detailed information pertaining to the method of collecting taxes, town administration, licencing, town financing and so forth.

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## 3 *Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Value of the Central Prison Labour*

Appointed on June 1, 1877 by Order in Council 10/432 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Commissioner of Public Works.

**Chair:** The Honourable W. Pearce Howland.

**Commissioners:** Z. R. Brockway, James Noxon.

**Report:** Dated September 15, 1877. 310 p. Includes appendices.

**Notes:** Includes minutes of evidence and exhibits.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission concerned a dispute between the Canada Car Company and the Inspector of Prisons for Ontario over the cost of prison labour. The Canada Car Company used prison labour to manufacture wooden ware such as pails, tubs and brooms. The company claimed that the high cost of prison labour made their product prices too high in relation to cheap goods being brought in from the United States and that an economic slowdown had reduced the market even further. The price paid for prison labour at that time was 55¢ per day. The Commission was asked to determine if this was a fair and just price, and if not, to establish one. After due consideration it concluded that prison labour was worth only one third of free labour and a fair price to be paid by the Canada Car Company would be 40¢ per day for prisoners serving less than one year and 50¢ per day for those serving more than one year.

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## 4 *Central Committee Inquiry of Examiners of the Education Department*

Appointed on September 24, 1877 by Order in Council 11/42 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable Adam Crooks, Minister of Education.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice C.S. Patterson.

**Report:** Dated December 31, 1877. 254 p. Includes evidence. Sessional Paper no. 11, 1878.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was directed to inquire into charges which had appeared in the press against the Central Committee of Examiners of the Education Department. The Commission concentrated on two of the charges which dealt with allegations of personal dishonesty against members of the Committee. The first was that a member of the Committee had given Mr. Gage of Adam Miller

and Company, a book publishing firm, information which enabled it to anticipate the authorization of certain school books thus allowing the firm to prepare such books ahead of the competition. The other charge involved collusion between one of the examiners and a teacher at the Toronto Normal School. It was claimed that the teacher was given advance knowledge of what questions would be on the exam and then prepared his students to answer those specific questions. The Commissioner, Mr. Justice Patterson, did not find any evidence to support these charges.

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## 5 *Ontario Agricultural Commission*

Appointed on April 3, 1880 by Order in Council 13/399 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

**Chair:** Samuel Casey Wood.

**Commissioners:** T. Ballantyne, J.B. Aylsworth, W. Brown, J. Watson, T. Stock, A. Wilson, J. Dryden, W. Saunders, E.H. Hilbourn, J.P. Wiser, E. Byrne, J. McMillan, W. Whitelaw, Richard Gibson, F. Malcolm, E. Stock, A.H. Dymond.

**Report:** Dated February, 1881. vol. 1. Report and Appendix A (minutes of proceedings). 563, xxxiii, 31 p., illus., 1 map, fold. vol. 2. Appendix B. 668 p., maps, fold. vol. 3. Appendices C-J. various paging, illus. vol. 4. Appendices K-S. various paging, illus.

**Notes:** Report only, Sessional Paper no. 42, 1881. (Report not bound with printed Sessional Papers).

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was a thorough and exhaustive investigation of the agricultural potential of the Province of Ontario. The topics of concern to the Commissioners included the soil, climate, topographical features, cultivable area and products of several sections of the province as well as grain-growing, dairying, stock-raising, fruit-growing and the cultivation of special crops like flax and tobacco. It also looked into agricultural bookkeeping and education and the functions of the Bureau of Agriculture. One chapter of the report is devoted to grape culture and native wine-making. The Commissioners concluded that the prospects for a strong agricultural economy were excellent for Ontario and that "the progress in settlement achieved in Ontario up to the present time, and the completeness of the internal communications established, are causes for pride and gratification." Although profits gained by the cultivation of crops were

comparatively small, the promotion of a more scientific approach to farming, stated the Commissioners, would yield increasingly beneficial results.

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## 6 *Commission of Inquiry into Certain Misconduct at the Agricultural College, Guelph*

Appointed on January 25, 1884 by Order in Council 18/98 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Commissioner of Agriculture.

**Commissioner:** John Winchester.

**Report:** Dated January 28, 1884. 5 leaves, manuscript copy.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Evidence, miscellaneous correspondence.

**Historical Background:** Because the Provincial Government controlled the Agricultural College at Guelph, it was often compelled to interfere directly into matters concerning the institution. This situation concerned a number of pranks or "annoyances" that had been made by several students against the Assistant-Resident Mathematical Master, Edward L. Hunt. These pranks consisted of throwing bottles of ink, a pipe bowl and bar of soap through his bedroom and sitting room windows. Finally in the early hours of January 24th, 1884, a number of students broke into his rooms with the intention of pulling Hunt out of bed and ducking his head under a tap. They succeeded in the first part of this plan but because of Hunt's resistance and screams, ran away before the last part was accomplished. The Commission was appointed to determine who the culprits were and the reasons for their discontent. Six students were named by the Commission and the reasons for their dislike of Hunt were listed as the "plucking of students at examinations", his youthful appearance, his sneaking ways in supporting the students and his inability to teach them.

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## 7 *Commission Appointed to Inquire into and Investigate Certain Charges of a Conspiracy to Corrupt and of Attempts to Bribe Certain Members of the Legislature*

Appointed on May 12, 1884 by Order in Council 18/325 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General. Notice of commission appointment appeared in the *Ontario Gazette* May 24, 1884.

**Chair:** Mr. Justice William Proudfoot.

**Commissioners:** The Honourable Edmund John Senkler, the Honourable Alexander Forsyth Scott.

**Report:** Dated January 10, 1885. viii, 425, 441 p. Includes evidence taken and documents. Sessional Paper no. 9, 1885.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Bribery Commission.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission concerned a bribery scandal that occurred in the Spring of 1884. It was charged in the House by Premier Oliver Mowat that several supporters of the Conservative Party had offered money and promises of Dominion offices to certain members of the Government if they would vote against, and then defeat, the Government. As soon as these members were approached they informed the Speaker of the situation and a plan was formulated whereby they would appear to go along with the scheme in order to determine the extent of the corruption. The Commission was asked to investigate the truth of these charges and also to answer a counter-charge that members of the House had approached innocent members of the public in order to induce them to make corrupt offers. While this last charge was found to have no foundation, the allegations made by Mowat were found to be true. The Commission concluded, however, that there did not appear to be any reason to suppose that any Conservative members of the House were involved in the conspiracy.

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## 8 *The Royal Commission Appointed to Enquire into Certain Charges against the Warden of the Central Prison and into the Management of the Said Prison*

Appointed on July 6, 1885 by Order in Council 19/286 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** James Shaw Sinclair.

**Commissioners:** John Woodburn Langmuir, Dennis Ambrose O'Sullivan.

**Report:** Dated November 19, 1885. 63 p. Sessional Paper no. 26, 1886.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Central Prison Commission. Minutes of evidence, 181 p. Also in Sessional Paper. Bound with report.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Summary of Commissioners' findings, 18 p. and volume of clippings from Toronto *Globe and Mail*, 93 p.

**Historical Background:** After several charges were reported in the Press and mentioned in the House, the Government appointed this Commission to investigate conditions prevailing in the Central Prison. In all 27 charges were made against the Warden ranging from the serving of tainted meat and the unsanitary condition of blankets, towels and bathing arrangements to the excessively cruel treatment of recalcitrant prisoners. Besides thoroughly investigating prison systems in the United States and the methods of punishment inflicted on prisoners there, the Commissioners interviewed inmates of the Central Prison about their treatment. An interesting table outlining different types of punishment in use in various prisons is included in the report. The report also reviews individual cases of complaint from inmates of the Central Prison giving a vivid picture of the daily routine of the prison, relations between guards and prisoners and types of punishment exacted for particular transgressions. The Commission found that most of the charges were unsubstantiated but recommended that methods of isolating difficult prisoners be more humanely carried out. The Commissioners also recommended that the government consider a method in use in several institutions in the United States of offering rewards and remission of sentences in return for good behaviour.

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## 9 *The Commission on Municipal Institutions*

Appointed on December 9, 1887 by Order in Council 22/18 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** Timothy Warren Anglin, E.F.B. Johnston, William Houston.

**Report:** First report. Dated March 16, 1888. 96 p. Sessional Paper no. 42, 1888. Second report. Dated December 20, 1888. 233, xxxiii p. Sessional Paper no. 13, 1889.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission investigated municipal institutions in Great Britain and Ireland, France and the United States comparing their experiences and laws relating to municipal or local government with those in Ontario. The second report contains a comprehensive history of local government in Ontario. The reports examined in detail such matters as the electorate, debt and taxation, assessment, audit, toll roads and so forth. The Commission did not make any final conclusions or recommendations.

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## *10 Royal Commission on the Mineral Resources of Ontario and Measures for their Development*

Appointed on May 16, 1888 by Order in Council 22/284 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** John Charlton.

**Commissioners:** Robert Bell, William Coe, William Hamilton Merritt, Archibald Blue (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated April, 1890. xxiv, 566 p., illus., map. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 67, 1889.

**Notes:** Includes glossary of geological and mining terms.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to enquire into the extent of the mineral resources of the province and measures to be taken for their development. The report is comprehensive and describes in detail the geology of the province, working mines and undeveloped mineral resources, and the trade in minerals and causes for the depression in the mining industry. It also discusses the mining laws and regulations and the best means for promoting metallurgical industries especially the smelting of iron and other ores. The Commission found that the most promising mineral works in the province at the time were the mining and smelting of copper and nickel ores in the Sudbury area. Recommendations included the establishment of training programs in metallurgy and mining, a bureau of mines for the purpose of making a complete geological survey of the province, a museum of geology and minerology as well as a plan for the collection of yearly statistics. As a result of this commission the Bureau of Mines for the province was established on March 4, 1891.

## *11 Commission Appointed to Enquire into the Prison and Reformatory System of Ontario*

Appointed on July 3, 1890 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General. No indication of authorizing statute or Order in Council.

**Chair:** John Woodburn Langmuir.

**Commissioners:** Charles Drury, A.M. Rosebrugh, A.F. Jury, Timothy Warren Anglin (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated April 8, 1891. 799 p. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 18, 1891.

**Notes:** Appendices contain evidence.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was an important Commission which recommended a complete overhaul of the reformatory system in Ontario. The Commission was directed to enquire into the causes of crime; the management of industrial schools and the best means of rescuing destitute children; the management of County Gaols and the classification of prisoners; the question of indeterminate sentences; the most fitting employment for prisoners and the best means of dealing with tramps and habitual drunkards. Since the Commission found that the major cause of crime was the lack of good home training and the want of proper parental control, most of the recommendations dealt with the problem of juvenile offenders and destitute children. One of the major recommendations in that regard was that associations be formed in every county which would be responsible for these children. Other recommendations were that drunkards be imprisoned after three convictions, that tramps and vagrants be sentenced to hard labour, that young (aged 17-30 years) first offenders be kept separate from more hardened criminals, that the system of indeterminate sentences where prisoners can earn time off for good behaviour be introduced, and that a Provincial Inspector of Prisons be appointed.

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## *12 Ontario Game and Fish Commission*

Appointed on November 13, 1890 by Order in Council 25/536 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Chair:** Dr. G.A. MacCallum.

**Commissioners:** A.D. Stewart (Secretary), R.A. Lucas, R.G. Hervey, W.S. Pulford, J. Mitchell, A.H. Taylor, J.H. Wilmott, H.K. Smith, E.W. Thompson (Thompson resigned shortly after work was commenced).

**Report:** Dated February 1, 1892. 483 p., illus. Sessional Paper no. 79, 1892.

**Notes:** Includes samples of questionnaires sent to sportsmen and a descriptive report on the fauna of Ontario.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** Concerned about the rapidly depleting game, bird and fish stocks of the province, this commission was established to determine whether districts for fish and game protection purposes with appropriate hunting seasons should be established. Questionnaires were distributed to sportsmen throughout the province to get their impressions of the amount of game in their regions. The most serious concern of the Commission was the decline of the deer population although serious depletions of all types of game were reported. The commission made a thorough investigation of all aspects of hunting, the preservation of birds, fish and fur-bearing animals and the laws respecting such. It made several recommendations for the protection of wildlife in the province including closed seasons on certain animals for a specified length of time, restricted hunting of deer with hounds, the prohibition of the exportation of all kinds of game from the province and the requirement that foreign sportsmen pay a licence fee. Because there was so little regard paid to hunting seasons, a major recommendation was the introduction of Game Wardens to enforce hunting regulations.

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## 13 *Commission Appointed to Enquire into the Claims Made by the Township of Proton to Certain Sums of Money Payable as Alleged to that Municipality under the Act 16 Vict. cap. 159, sec. 14*

Appointed on August 19, 1891 by Order in Council 26/472 under the *Public Inquiries Act.*

**Commissioners:** Timothy Warren Anglin, Aemilius Irving.

**Report:** Dated March 29, 1892. 25 p. Sessional Paper no. 89, 1892.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** Officials of the township of Proton claimed that an improvement fund consisting of a proportion of the sales of grammar school lands which had been in existence between the years 1853 and 1861, had never been turned over to the township. This commission was established to determine the validity of their claim. The Commission concluded that the township had no legal claim to grammar school lands sold before July 1, 1867 and, therefore, no claim to the improvement fund.

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## *14 Drainage Commission of the Province of Ontario*

Appointed on September 22, 1891 by Order in Council 26/515 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** John B. Rankin.

**Commissioners:** William B. McGeorge, Archibald McIntyre, Robert Lamarsh.

**Report:** Dated February, 1893. 135 p. Sessional Paper no. 32, 1893.

**Notes:** Chapter IV contains evidence.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was an investigation into the working of the drainage laws of the Province of Ontario. Particular attention was paid to the drainage provisions of *The Municipal Act* and recommendations were made to improve and simplify the Act. *The Ditches and Watercourses Act* was also examined in detail and found to be working effectively.

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## *15 Royal Commission on Forest Reservation and National Park*

Appointed on February 8, 1892 by Order in Council 27/233 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Commissioner of Crown Lands. No indication of authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Chair:** Alexander Kirkwood.

**Commissioners:** Aubrey White, Archibald Blue, James Dickson, R.W. Phipps (Phipps appointed March 2, 1892), Thomas W. Gibson (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated March 8, 1893. 40 p., map, fold. Sessional Paper no. 31, 1893.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Supplementary material under the title *Supplementary Papers and Reports Upon Forestry, Forest Schools, Forest Administration and Management in Europe, America and the British Possessions and Upon Forests as Public Parks and Sanitary Resorts.* Collected by A. Kirkwood, 278 p.
**Archives Holdings:** OTAR also has these supplementary papers.

**Historical Background:** This was an investigation into the area of the province lying between Mattawa and Georgian Bay and its suitability for a forest reserve and national park. Several reasons were put forward for the selection of this site, namely that this area of the province gave rise to so many important streams and a park would provide for the preservation of indigenious trees and the protection of fish, game, birds and fur-bearing animals. It would also serve as a health resort - "to find whether in Northern Ontario an air cannot be found more pure and more invigorating than in either Europe or the States." In 1893 as a result of the recommendation of the commission Algonquin Park was established as "a public park, and forest reservation, fish and game preserve, health resort and pleasure ground for the benefit, advantage and enjoyment of the people of the Province" with the passing of Bill 107, *An Act to Establish the Algonquin National Park of Ontario.*

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## *16 Ontario Commission on the Dehorning of Cattle*

Appointed on March 9, 1892 by Order in Council 27/274 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture.

**Chair:** Charles Drury.

**Commissioners:** Andrew Smith, Richard Gibson, D.M. Macpherson, Henry Glendinning, J.J. Kelso (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated November 15, 1892. 127 p., illus. Includes appendix. Sessional Paper no. 2, 1893.

**Notes:** Appendix contains minutes of evidence.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** The practice of dehorning cattle made its way into Ontario

from Great Britain around 1888. With the spread of this practice throughout the southern portion of the province a heated controversy arose over its usefulmess and the level of pain it caused to the animal. Several court cases arose as a result of charges of cruelty to animals, made against farmers. Finally the proponents of the practice appealed to the government to hold a public inquiry into the issue as "there was so much divergence of expert opinion and no precedent to govern the courts." Those in favour of the operation claimed that it increased the value of the animal to the owner and that it prevented the cattle from inflicting suffering upon each other. Those opposed claimed that the pain inflicted in the operation was excessive and out of proportion to the benefits attained. The Commission accepted the evidence of those in favour of the operation and recommended that the practice be permitted when performed with reasonable skill but that the Experimental Farm test other methods of removing horns other than sawing off the horns when they have attained their full growth.

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## *17 Commission on Municipal Taxation*

Appointed on December 31, 1892 by Order in Council 28/300 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General. No indication of authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Chair:** J.R. Cartwright.

**Commissioners:** Timothy Warren Anglin, Eno Saunders.

**Report:** Dated April 24, 1893. 86 p. Sessional Paper no. 73, 1893.

**Notes:** Includes supplement by T.W. Anglin.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was directed to obtain all the facts available with regard to direct taxation for municipal and other purposes and proposed and present exemptions from taxation including a comparison with the laws of Great Britain, the United States and other parts of Canada. There had been a growing sentiment that real and personal property were equally liable to assessment for municipal purposes and this investigation was to determine the probable effects of such a system. The report discussed poll taxes, corporation taxes, income taxes, property valuations and business taxes. Four pages were also devoted to an examination of Henry George's concept of the Single Tax. T.W. Anglin, a former Liberal from New Brunswick in the House of Commons and

latterly the editor of the *Toronto Telegram* added a 21 page supplement to the report, giving his views on the subjects discussed therein.

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## *18 Commission of Inquiry as to the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm*

Appointed on June 8, 1893 by Order in Council 28/528 under the *Public Inquiries Act*.

**Chair:** John Winchester.

**Commissioners:** John Watterworth, John S. Pearce.

**Report:** Dated July 20, 1893. 156 p. Sessional Papers no. 33 and no. 124, 1894.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Evidence.

**Historical Background:** This Commission of Inquiry was appointed as the result of a petition brought by five ex-students of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm against the President, Dr. Mills. The students claimed that "there [was] something seriously wrong ... [and] unless speedily corrected, it must result disastrously." In the report many instances of friction between Dr. Mills and the students, and Dr. Mills and Prof. Shaw, a professor of agriculture and superintendent of the Experimental Farm, were brought to light. In the end, the commissioners took the side of Dr. Mills and charged Shaw with being the chief cause of the "present feeling of dissatisfaction and unrest among the students." They restated that "the rules, regulations and by-laws in connection with the institution should be rigidly enforced, and that it is absolutely necessary that there should be only one head to the institution, and he alone responsible to the Minister [of Agriculture]."

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## *19 Commissioners Appointed to Inquire Concerning the Mode of Appointing and Remunerating Certain Provincial Officials Now Paid by Fees and the Extent of the Remuneration They Should Receive*

Appointed on March 26, 1894 by Order in Council 29/469 amended on April 10, 1894 by Order in Council 29/502, both under the *Public Inquiries Act*.

**Chair:** The Honourable John Alexander Boyd.

**Commissioners:** The Honourable John Beverley Robinson, John James Mason, John Inglis Hobson, Thomas Brooks, J. Fleming (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated March, 1895. 95 p., table. Includes appendix. Sessional Paper no. 32, 1895.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Fees Commission.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Proceedings.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was concerned with determining a fair remuneration for certain public officers, particularly the Registrars of Deeds, Sheriffs, local masters and deputy registrars, deputy clerks of the County Courts, county attorneys and clerks of the peace, and Division Court clerks and bailiffs. In determining the amount of remuneration and the manner of appointing officials, the commission also considered the larger question of the division of power between the municipality and the province. Patronage is discussed along with detailed accounts of the salaries earned by these officials.

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## *20 Commission on the Discipline in the University of Toronto*

Appointed on April 6, 1895 by Order in Council 32/168 under the *Public Inquiries Act*.

**Chair:** The Honourable Thomas W. Taylor, Chief Justice of Manitoba.

**Commissioners:** John J. Kingsmill, Judge Edmund J. Senkler, Byron M. Britton, Q.C., John Campbell.

**Report:** Dated April 27, 1895. 32 p. Includes exhibits. Sessional Paper no. 38, 1896.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** The incentives for establishment of this commission were complaints made by a University of Toronto student, James Tucker, the editor of the *Varsity*, who "had been asked by the University Council to insert an apology in the

paper concerning certain articles criticizing the university's selection of staff." When he refused to do this, and was supported by a large number of the student body, he was suspended from the University. In the course of this investigation many other incidents were raised which indicated the friction then existing between the students and the University Council including the interference of Edward Blake in the appointment to faculty of his son-in-law, George M. Wrong, the objection of the University Council to a series of lectures sponsored by the Political Science Club and student control over the Student Union Building. The commission upheld the side of the University Council over that of the students in almost every case.

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## 21 *Commission Appointed to Investigate into the Manner of Taking the Vote of the Electors of the District of Nipissing for the Selection of a District Town*

Appointed on April 10, 1895 by Order in Council 32/178 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** James Fleming.

**Report:** 1895. Report missing.

**Report Locations:** OTL (transcript only).
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts of evidence.

**Historical Background:** After North Bay was selected as a District Town for the District of Nipissing complaints were received by representatives of the other towns competing for the honour - Sturgeon Falls and Mattawa - that there were numerous irregularities in the voting procedure. Although the report is missing and the finding of the Commissioner unknown since North Bay is today the District Town for Nipissing it can be assumed these charges were not upheld.

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## 22 *Royal Commission on Forestry Protection in Ontario*

Appointed on June 4, 1897 on the recommendation of Thomas Southwood, Clerk of Forestry. No indication of Order in Council. Introductory material indicates *Public Inquiries Act* was authorizing statute.

**Chair:** Edward Wilkes Rathbun.

**Commissioners:** Alexander Kirkwood (Vice-chair), Thomas Southwood (Secretary), John Bertram, John Bannon McWilliams.

**Report:** Preliminary report. Dated December 10, 1897. 14p. Sessional Paper no. 45, 1897/1898. Final report. Dated March 25, 1899. 29 p., map, fold. Sessional Paper no. 35, 1898/1899.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** By the late 19th century the state of the forest resources of the province had become of considerable concern to the government. Wasteful and careless lumbering practices as well as forest fires threatened to reduce to an alarming level the amount of merchantable timber, particularly the white pine. This commission was appointed to investigate the possibility of "restoring and preserving the growth of white pine and other timber trees upon lands in the province which are both adapted for agricultural purposes or for settlement." After an extensive study of the forest resources of the province including visits to Peterborough County, Lake Nipissing, Vermillion River, the country around Thessalon, Algoma Mills and Killarney as well as Rainy River and parts of Minnesota and Michigan, the commission released its report. It recommended that all licensed and unlicensed land held by the Crown where the public is permitted to go, should be patrolled by fire rangers controlled directly by the Government, that forest reserves be established on unworked limits, that no trees smaller than 12 inches in diameter be cut, that permanent Crown forest reserves be established on land unsuitable for settlement and that fire prevention information be printed in the Indian language.

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## 23 *Royal Commission on the Question of Prices of School Books, Royalties, etc.*

Appointed on November 12, 1897 by Order in Council 35/248 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education. No indication of authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Commissioners:** Judge Edward Morgan, James Bain Jr., Christopher Blackett Robinson.

**Report:** Dated January 10, 1898. 19 p. Sessional Paper no. 64, 1898.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to ascertain whether the prices fixed between the Ministry of Education and the various publishers of text

books could be reduced, whether the amount of royalties paid to the authors of text books was justified and to inquire into the cost of text books in Ontario compared with elsewhere. The Commission concluded that the Readers in use in Ontario were of excellent and durable quality as to paper, typography, illustrations and binding, that the retail price was not excessive and should not be reduced and that the system of royalties then in effect was preferable to a lump sum payment for copyright. Also, the Commissioners believed that Ontario text books were of equal educational and literacy merit and excellence in makeup as those in the United States and at much cheaper rates. This Commission should be read in conjunction with the Text Book Commission of 1907 (item #33) where entirely different conclusions were reached.

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## 24 *Commission of Enquiry Concerning the Operation of the San Jose Scale Act*

Appointed on June 16, 1899 by Order in Council 38/395 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture. Appointed to examine fruit tree infestation.

**Commissioners:** James Mills, John Dearness, W.H. Bunting.

**Report:** Dated September 1, 1899. 8 p. Sessional Paper no. 43, 1900.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** San Jose Scale was a serious disease which affected fruit trees in the Niagara region. The *San Jose Scale Act* was passed to eradicate the disease through regular inspections and the cutting down of infested trees. There had been much opposition to the Act because of the amount of compensation paid to fruit growers for the loss of their trees as well as the owners' lack of input into which trees were destroyed. This Commission was appointed to determine the amount of opposition to the Act and whether it was effective in preventing the spread of the disease. The Commission decided that there was not universal opposition to the Act, that it was effective in halting the spread of the disease and, therefore, should continue to be enforced. It recommended, however, that the method of valuation be modified so that the owner may be represented in some way.

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## 25 *Royal Commission on the Financial Position of the Province of Ontario*

Appointed on November 2, 1899 by Order in Council 39/186 on the recommendation of the Honourable Mr. Ross. No indication of authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Chair:** Byron Edmund Walker.

**Commissioners:** John Hoskin, Angus Kirkland.

**Report:** Dated February 13, 1900. First edition 29 p. Includes appendix. Corrected edition 26 p. Sessional Paper no. 4, 1900.

**Report Locations:** (Both editions) OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established to review the financial position of Ontario since 1867. The final division of Provincial and Dominion accounts did not take place for several years after Confederation, consequently there had been some uncertainty over the division of assets and liabilities of the two jurisdictions. The Commission was directed to examine the books of the Treasury Department, to submit a statement of the moneys expended out of revenue on public works, buildings and railways for each year since Confederation and to report on the assets and liabilities of the province. The report contains extensive tables outlining the financial affairs of the province.

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## 26 *West Elgin Election Investigation*

Appointed on January 31, 1900 by Order in Council 39/409 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier.

**Chair:** Judge John Augustus Barron, Q.C.

**Commissioners:** His Honour Judge Duncan Byron MacTavish, His Honour Judge Edward Morgan.

**Report:** Dated June 30, 1900. 16 p. Sessional Paper no. 46, 1901.

**Notes:** Last 3 pages of the report are missing.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** At the provincial election held on January 5th and 12th, 1899, several violations of the *Ontario Elections Act* were alleged to have occurred. Particularly, it was charged, that candidate Donald McNish had seen to it that several people were appointed as deputy returning officers and poll clerks although they were not legally entitled to be, with the intended purpose of corruptly and illegally securing his election. Although personation, perjury and ballot tampering were found to have taken place, it was without the knowledge of the returning officer and could not be conclusively attributed to McNish. The Commission recommended that the returning officer should exercise more independence in his choice of deputies.

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## 27 *Ontario Assessment Commission*

Appointed on August 10, 1900 by Order in Council 44/272 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** Honourable Mr. Justice James Maclennan.

**Commissioners:** Honourable Mr. Justice Hugh MacMahon, Thomas H. Macpherson, Kenneth W. McKay, Abraham Pratt, Daniel R. Wilkie, Matthew J. Butler.

**Report:** First or interim report. Dated January 31, 1901. xii, 605 p. Includes proceedings. Sessional Paper no. 44, 1900. Final report. Dated February 13, 1902. 75, 115 p. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 48, 1901.

**Notes:** Final Report is bound with the printed Sessional Papers for 1902.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission prompted a thorough investigation of taxation in Ontario and elsewhere at the turn of the century. It considered different forms of taxation of private and publicly owned corporations. The system of taxation then in general use was the tax on personal property. This was found to be lacking in uniformity and universality. The Commission felt that this tax should be replaced by an income tax which would be based on the person's ability to pay.

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## *28 Royal Commission re Gamey Charges*

Appointed on March 28, 1903 by Order in Council 46/472 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** The Honourable Sir John Alexander Boyd, chancellor, the Honourable Chief Justice William Glenholme Falconbridge.

**Report:** Dated June 4, 1903. 48 p. Sessional Paper no. 51, 1903. Evidence, 952 p. and argument of counsel, 98 p. are bound with the report.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Bribery Charges Commission.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Scrapbook of newspaper clippings.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous items.

**Historical Background:** On March 11, 1903, Robert Roswell Gamey, the Conservative member for Manitoulin, arose in the House and charged that another member, James Robert Stratton, the Provincial Secretary, had attempted to bribe him in order to induce him to support the Liberal Ross Government. The extensive investigation which followed provides illuminating glimpses into back room politics, influence peddling, party allegiances and party structure. The Commission concluded from the evidence that Gamey was very erratic in his party loyalty, supporting whichever policies would benefit Manitoulin or himself. The charges of bribery made by Gamey were not sufficiently proved and Stratton was exonerated. Gamey was subsequently censured by the House but continued to represent Manitoulin until his death in 1918.

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## *29 Ontario Commission on Railway Taxation*

Appointed on May 20, 1904 by Order in Council 49/433 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier. No indication of authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Chair:** H.J. Pettypiece.

**Commissioners:** Archibald Bell, Adam Shortt.

**Report:** Dated April 1, 1905. 219 p. Sessional Paper no. 54, 1905.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to inquire into and report upon the various types of legislation in force in the United States affecting the taxation of railways. The Commission also considered the general question of the taxation of corporations, a relatively new form of business organization at the time. At this time as well, the province had not yet resorted to direct taxation as a means of raising revenue, with most of its funds coming from the Dominion government and forestry resources. Subjects dealt with in the report included valuation, assessment, operating costs, profit and other financial matters affecting railways. Although thoroughly investigating different types of railway taxation, the Commission did not issue any recommendations as to which it preferred.

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## *30 Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into and Report upon the Matters Referred to in a Resolution of the Senate of the University of Toronto on the 20th Day of January, 1905 (see also #31)*

Appointed on February 2, 1905 by Order in Council 52/84 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

**Chair:** Sir William Ralph Meredith.

**Commissioners:** Charles Moss, William P.R. Street, Thomas C.S. Macklem, Allen B. Aylesworth.

**Report:** Dated May 16, 1905. 14 p. Sessional Paper no. 32, 1905.

**Notes:** The Report is bound with the printed Sessional Papers for 1905.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission concerned charges which appeared anonymously in *Saturday Night* that the 1851 Exhibition Scholarships for the years 1900 and 1904 were awarded improperly. In the first case the scholarship was awarded to a student who had not submitted a thesis and in the second to a person who had not been a full-time student in the year previous to the granting of the award. Both of these situations it was claimed were in contravention of the regulations. The Commission concluded that this confusion over policies arose in large measure from the unclearly defined and wide-ranging duties of the President. It recommended, therefore, that the duties of the President be reduced and that, in particular, his financial responsibilities be turned over to someone appointed for that

purpose. Also it was recommended that the President's powers be strengthened and more clearly defined. This Commission resulted in the appointment of another Royal Commission (#31) the following year, which made recommendations concerning an extensive restructuring of the University as a whole.

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## *31 Royal Commission on the University of Toronto*

Appointed on October 3, 1905 by Order in Council 53/389 under the *Public Inquiries Act.*

**Chair:** Joseph W. Flavelle.

**Commissioners:** Goldwin Smith, Sir William Ralph Meredith, Rev. Henry John Cody, Byron E. Walker, Rev. D. Bruce Macdonald, Arthur H.U. Colquhoun (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated April 4, 1906. lx, 268 p. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 42, 1906.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was a major commission which brought about the restructuring of the University of Toronto. In order to train the leaders of business and industry more efficiently, it was felt that the university had to be reorganized. The direct control of the university by the Province left it open to the vicissitudes of party politics. There was a lack of a clearly defined distribution of authority. The university was governed by several different bodies with overlapping powers who acted independently and often at odds with one another. The commission therefore recommended the creation of a Board of Governors and a Senate, a President and Chancellor, each with clearly refined areas of responsibility. The commission also examined other areas of the university structure including the organization and policies of the various faculties and colleges, the needs of the library, the need for a museum (the new museum recommended by the commission became the Royal Ontario Museum), the Ontario Agricultural College and the Veterinary College at Guelph as well as the tenure and remuneration of professors.

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## 32 *Commission to Investigate Charges against Charles Edward Whelihan, Registrar of Deeds for the Registry Division of the South Riding of Perth*

Appointed on February 7, 1906 by Order in Council 55/174 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Hugh B. Morphy.

**Report:** Dated March 16, 1906. 16 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Verbatim testimony.

**Historical Background:** Charles Whelihan was charged with acting on information he acquired as Registrar of Deeds to interfere with the sale of a piece of land. Although the Commissioner found that the charge made against Whelihan was true, he made no recommendation as to his fitness for office.

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## 33 *Text Book Commission*

Appointed on July 12, 1906 by Order in Council under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

**Chair:** T.W. Crothers.

**Commissioners:** John A. Cooper, Alexander Clark Casselman (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated January 31, 1907. 389 p. Includes appendices and minutes of evidence. Sessional Paper no. 49, 1907.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to inquire into the reasonableness of the prices charged for text books. It also examined the quality of paper used, typesetting and binding. Not only did the commission find that the price of text books in Ontario was too high, but also that the quality fell far short of those elsewhere, particularly in Britain and the United States. Part of the problem was the monopoly certain publishing firms had over the printing of the books, which they managed to secure by obtaining exclusive copyright to selections

printed in the readers. The commission recommended that the Department of Education obtain the copyright to the printed selections and that printing contracts be awarded by tender.

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## *34 Commission to Investigate the Workings of the Blind Institute at Brantford and the Deaf and Dumb Institute at Belleville*

Appointed on October 5, 1906 by Order in Council 56/332 under Section 28 of the *Education Department Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

**Commissioner:** A.J. Russsell Snow.

**Report:** 1907 Re Brantford investigation, 50 leaves, typescript. Includes recommendations. Re Belleville investigation 25 leaves, typescript. Includes recommendations.

**Report Locations:** OTL has evidence only, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** 2 volumes of evidence re: the Brantford investigation (on microfiche only).
**Archives Holdings:** Evidence for both the Brantford and Belleville investigations.

**Historical Background:** The investigation into the Blind Institute was brought about by charges made by one of the instructors against the principal, H.F. Gardiner. Most of the charges dealt with the way in which the Institute was run. For instance, students were permitted to go into Brantford unattended and while there frequented cigar stores and hotel bars. Another charge was that students were allowed to vote and take an active part in politics, particularly on the side of the Liberals whose workers were allowed on the grounds to canvass the pupils. Serious deficits were also found in the teaching of the blind students: there was an inadequate supply of readers in point or embossed print, there were no competitive examinations of the pupils and teachers did not keep a record of marks or student progress. The Commissioner recommended an extensive reorganization of the Institute including changing its name to the Ontario School for the Blind and establishing an Advisory Board, to consist of the Mayor of the City of Brantford, the Senior High School Principal, and the Senior County Judge. This Board would assist in the management and administration of the Institute and report regularly to the Minister of Education.

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## 35 *Commission to Investigate Charges against Thomas McDonald, Registrar of Deeds for the County of Dundas*

Appointed on February 1, 1907 by Order in Council 58/102 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the President of the Council.

**Commissioner:** Joseph Coulson Judd.

**Report:** Dated February 27, 1907. 11 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was instituted to investigate allegations that the Registrar of Deeds for the County of Dundas was unfit to hold office. Two charges against him were that he had closed the Registrar's office between 12 and 1 pm each day which was in contravention of the *Registry Act* and while returning officer for Dundas, had actively campaigned on behalf of T.F. Chamberlain, the Liberal candidate in the federal election of 1904. While these charges were found to be true, the Commissioner did not find McDonald incompetent in carrying out his job.

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## 36 *Enquiry into the Conduct of W.R. Andrews, the License Inspector of East Elgin*

Appointed on February 5, 1909 by Order in Council 61/572 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Commissioner:** Eudo Saunders.

**Report:** Dated March 30, 1909. 80 p. Includes minutes of evidence. Sessional Paper no. 66, 1909.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry arose out of charges made against W.R. Andrews, the Licence Inspector for the District of East Elgin that he had prosecuted David Butler for keeping a disorderly house in order to publicly embarrass W.F. Hepburn who had been found on the premises. At the time, Hepburn was the Liberal candidate in a by-election for the district. (He was also the father of Mitch

Hepburn, the Premier of Ontario from 1934-1942). The Commissioner concluded that the Inspector was not guilty of this charge and that Hepburn was the victim of his own indiscretion rather than of any conspiracy against him.

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## *37 Milk Commission Appointed to Enquire into the Production, Care and Distribution of Milk*

Appointed on May 14, 1909 by Order in Council 62/352 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture.

**Chair:** Dr. A.R. Pyne.

**Commissioners:** J.R. Dargaval, F.G. Macdiarmid, W.F. Nickle.

**Report:** Dated February 21, 1910. 142 p. illus. Sessional Paper no. 52, 1912.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established to inquire into the conditions and methods whereby milk was being produced, cared for and supplied to the people of Ontario for domestic consumption and manufacturing purposes. The most important consideration of the Commission was the safety of the milk supply from a public health standpoint. The report discusses pasteurization extensively as well as the relationship between clean milk and the reduction in infantile mortality. The Commission called for a new, comprehensive Act governing the production, care and distribution of milk for human consumption. This was accomplished with *The Ontario Milk Act*, which was passed in 1911.

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## *38 Ontario Game and Fisheries Commission*

Appointed on July 17, 1909 by Order in Council 62/558 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable Mr. Cochrane, Acting Minister of Public Works.

**Commissioner:** Kelly Evans.

**Report:** Interim report. Dated February 5, 1910. Final report. Dated March 7, 1911. Bound together. ii, 304 p., illus., maps. Sessional Paper no. 52, 1912.

**Report Locations:** (Both interim and final) OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established to determine the condition of commercial and sporting fisheries, game and fur-bearing animals and the provincial forest reserves. It made recommendations with relation to the Great Lakes and lesser lakes commercial fisheries, sporting fisheries including the distribution of sport fish, and fire prevention in the provincial forest reserves. "A scheme for the improvement of the Fisheries and Game Protective Services" containing specific recommendations forms one chapter of the report.

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## 39 *Inquiry into the Cause of the Destruction of the Dams on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Depot Lakes in the County of Frontenac Napanee River*

Appointed on June 14, 1910. No indication of Order in Council. Introductory material indicates *Public Inquiries Act* was authorizing statute.

**Commissioner:** William Rankin.

**Report:** Dated January 10, 1911. 4 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Exhibits, proceedings, subpoenas.

**Historical Background:** This was an inquiry into the destruction of dams by several land owners who objected to the fact that the dams caused flooding on portions of their land. The Commissioner, although satisfied that the dams were willfully damaged, was not able to determine which of the suspected persons committed the damage.

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## 40 *Commission on Laws Relating to the Liability of Employers to Make Compensation to their Employees for Injuries Received in the Course of their Employment which are in Force in Other Countries*

Appointed on June 30, 1910 by Order in Council 64/507 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the President of the Council.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Sir William Ralph Meredith.

**Report:** First interim report. Dated March 27, 1912. 478p. Includes minutes of evidence and a brief. Sessional Paper no. 65, 1912. Second interim report. Dated April 2, 1913. 58 p. Sessional Papers no. 85, 1913 and no. 53, 1914. Final report. Dated October 31, 1913. 18 p. Sessional Paper no. 53, 1914.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Workmen's Compensation Commission.

**Report Locations:** (Both interim and final) OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was a landmark Commission which resulted in the passing of the *Workmen's Compensation Act* in 1914. Prior to this Act, an injured worker had to appeal directly to his employer for compensation. The legislation recommended by this commission provided for an impartial Board which would assess the merit of a worker's claim and grant compensation according to a pre-set schedule. The Commission deliberated as to which industries this law would extend, whether there should be a waiting period during which injuries would be uncompensable, whether the worker would continue to have the right to sue his employer, how the Board should be constituted and whether the decisions of the Board would be final or subject to appeal.

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## *41 Commission to Inquire into Charges against William Patterson, the Chairman of the License Board of Centre Huron*

Appointed on April 24, 1912 by Order in Council 68/280 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Commissioner:** Eudo Saunders.

**Report:** Dated May 2, 1912. 5 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTAR.

**Historical Background:** The holder of a tavern license at Goderich charged that the chairman of the License Board of Centre Huron, William Patterson, had attempted to extort money from him in return for allowing him to retain his license. When a town by-law reduced the number of licenses from eight to six, a great deal of discussion and speculation ensued over whose licenses would be revoked. The Commission found that Patterson did attempt to extort money from one of the tavern keepers and it was therefore recommended that he be dismissed as a License Commissioner.

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## 42 *Commission to Enquire into Certain Irregularities in Connection with Voting on a Certain By-Law of the Town of Welland on August 6, 1912*

Appointed on November 12, 1912 by Order in Council 70/488. No indication of authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Commissioner:** James W. Bain, K.C.

**Report:** Dated April 16, 1913. 6 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** It was charged that certain persons connected with the Welland Electric Company personated legitimate voters in connection with the passing of a by-law to authorize the issuance of debentures to finance the construction of an electric power plant. The Commission found that there was an organized effort made by some persons to defeat the by-law but was unable to determine who was responsible.

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## 43 *Public Roads and Highways Commission*

Appointed on July 31, 1913 by Order in Council 72/969. No indication of authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Chair:** C.A. Magrath.

**Commissioners:** W.A. McLean, A.M. Rankin.

**Report:** Dated March 31, 1914. 277 p., illus., 6 maps in pocket. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 84, 1914.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Good Roads Commission.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was a major commission established to recommend a plan for the construction, improvement and maintenace of the public roads and highways of Ontario. In order to bring the major roads up to a satisfactory standard, the commission recommended a large expenditure of money to be raised

through the issue of bonds and direct taxation on motor vehicles. A construction and maintenance schedule was recommended which was incorporated into *The Ontario Highway Act, 1914*. As a result of this Commission the Department of Highways was established in the fall of 1914.

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## *44 Ontario Commission on Unemployment*

Appointed on December 22, 1914 by Order in Council 75/205 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Chair:** Sir John S. Willison.

**Commissioners:** Neil McNeil, Henry John Cody, Daniel Strachan, W.K. McNaught, Joseph Gibbons, G. Frank Beer, A.T. DeLury, W.L. Best, Gilbert E. Jackson (Secretary), W.P. Gundy (Treasurer).

**Report:** Interim report. Dated July 20, 1915. Final report. Dated March 1, 1916. viii, 334 p., map. Includes evidence taken and appendices. Sessional Paper no. 55, 1916.

**Report Locations:** Interim report, OTAR. Final report, OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Correspondence regarding appointments.

**Historical Background:** An economic downturn during 1914-1915 combined with the conditions of war and the prospect of thousands of returning soldiers descending on Ontario at the conclusion of hostilities prompted this investigation into unemployment in the province. The Commission looked into five specific areas: the extent of unemployment in Ontario, the character of the unemployed, public and private employment agencies, municipal unemployment relief measures and unemployment among women. Upon the recommendation of the commission, the Trades and Labour Branch of the Department of Public Works was established in the fall of 1916 and a system of government run employment offices was established across the province.

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## *45 Royal Ontario Nickel Commission*

Appointed on September 9, 1915 by Order in Council 77/79 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Lands and Forests.

**Chair:** George T. Holloway.

**Commissioners:** Willet Green Miller, McGregor Young, Thomas William Gibson (Secretary).

**Report:** Dated March 19, 1917. xlviii, 584, v, 219, 62 p., illus, maps (1 in pocket), plans (2 in pocket). Includes appendix containing minutes of evidence, memoranda, papers, etc. Sessional Paper no. 62, 1917.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to inquire into the resources, industries and capacities of Ontario in connection with nickel and also into a just and equitable system of mining taxation. This was an extremely thorough investigation for the period with members of the commission visiting mining operations in several countries besides Canada, including New Caledonia, Tasmania, Cuba, Norway, France and England. The report is comprehensive and contains numerous photographs, drawings, charts and maps. Its fourteen chapters discuss in detail the properties and uses of nickel, smelting and refining of nickel and the recovery of platinum and sulphur. The commission gave overwhelming support to the nickel industry in Ontario and its prospects for the future. Its use in the production of armaments made it a valuable wartime industry. The commission also concluded that the present system of mining taxation was just and equitable and should not be changed.

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## *46 [Commission on] Medical Education in Ontario (See also #146)*

Appointed on September 29, 1915 by Order in Council 76/567 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Frank Egerton Hodgins.

**Report:** Dated October 13, 1917. 177 p. Sessional Paper no. 57, 1918.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** During the First World War it became apparent that traditional medicine was not adequate to treat the vast numbers of injured soldiers returning from the front. The use of physiotherapy and physical appliances, in particular, was gaining increasing acceptance by the medical profession. This commission was appointed to inquire into medical education in Ontario and to

ensure that physiotherapy is included in the curriculum of the University of Toronto. It also examined existing regulations of educational bodies, their revenues and expenditures and the methods of examining and licensing medical practitioners. It recommended that the term medicine be redefined to ensure that the *Medical Act, 1914* encompass all forms of medical practice including non-traditional or new disciplines. After July 1, 1918 no one was to practice medicine in Ontario without a license from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. The report discussed many of the health disciplines including osteopathy, chiropractic, Christian Scientist, dentistry, optometry and nursing. It also discussed the relations between the University of Toronto and the College of Physicians and Surgeons and the setting of standard fees.

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## *47 Insurance Commission*

Appointed on August 2, 1916 by Order in Council 79/238 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice Cornelius Arthur Masten.

**Report:** Dated January 18, 1919. 107 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** Public dissatisfaction with the system of insurance in Ontario brought about the establishment of this Commission in 1916. It examined all aspects of the insurance company profits, commissions paid to agents, fire losses, building supervision and inspection, automobile insurance and the uniformity of insurance laws.

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## *48 Royal Commission to Inquire into the Administration, Management and Welfare of the Ontario School for the Blind*

Appointed on April 26, 1916 by Order in Council 78/299 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

**Commissioner:** Norman Blain Gash.

**Report:** Dated February 12, 1917. 35 p. Sessional Paper no. 57, 1917.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed as the result of a letter received by the Department of Education signed by 42 boys who were students at the School for the Blind in Brantford. They complained that they had been severely and unjustifiably punished by two teachers of the school and that the principal had not taken any measures to deal with the situation. The Commission for the most part found the boys' complaints to be true and made several recommendations not only regarding discipline but also every facet of administration, organization, and curriculum then in place. Specifically the Commissioner, Mr. Gash, recommended that blind teachers be hired and that the New York point print, which had been taught and used in the school since its inception, be replaced by the Braille system which appeared to be becoming the universally accepted system.

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## *49 Commission of Inquiry re Waterworks Regulations and the Electrical Development Company of Ontario Ltd.*

Appointed on July 25, 1917 by Order in Council 82/541 under the *Public Inquiries Act* pursuant to the *Water Powers Regulation Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** Sir William Ralph Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario, Robert F. Sutherland, Hugh Thomas Kelly.

**Report:** Dated April 25, 1918. 8 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, minutes (incomplete).

**Historical Background:** According to *The Water Powers Regulations Act, 1917*, a commission formed under this Act could order any company to deliver to the Hydro Electric Power Commission of Ontario (H.E.P.C.O.) any power generated in excess of the amount it was entitled to develop or generate. This Commission was formed for the purpose of determining how much power the Electric Development Company of Ontario was required to supply to H.E.P.C.O. and the price to be paid for it. There is some indication that the company objected to this requirement, since it withdrew from the hearing and was replaced by a representative of the bondholders of the Company. The company was ordered to supply 25,000 horsepower to H.E.P.C.O. at the price of $9.00/h.p./annum.

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## 50 *Royal Commission on The Care and Control of the Mentally Defective and Feeble-minded in Ontario (and the Prevalence of Venereal Disease)*

Appointed on November 8, 1917 by Order in Council 84/241 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Commissioners:** The Honourable Frank Egerton Hodgins, Justice of Appeal.

**Report:** First interim report. Dated February 20, 1918. 21 p. Sessional Paper no. 74, 1918. Second interim report. Dated October 23, 1918. 25 p. Sessional Paper no. 58, 1919. Final report. Dated October 18, 1919. 236 p., illus. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 24, 1920.

**Notes:** Interim reports are on venereal disease. Final report is on the feeble-minded.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Final report only.

**Historical Background:** This was a wide-ranging examination of the care of mentaliy defective people in Ontario with emphasis placed on their identification, treatment and control. Methods of treatment and legislation regarding mental defectives in the United States and Britain were also examined. The commission was also asked to determine to what extent venereal disease was a cause or consequence of mental incapacity. This subject was dealt with in the interim reports. The Commissioners viewed the prevalence of mental defectives in Ontario society with deep concern and felt that if something were not done soon, the problem could get out of control. Consequently many of its recommendations were concerned with the early detection of mental defectives and their segregation from the rest of society. Its major recommendation was that a survey be conducted throughout the province to identify and register mental defectives. Institutional care was recommended for some classes and colony settlements in isolated areas for other types. It was recommended that mental defective women of childbearing age be removed from society and legislation be passed to make it an offence punishable by a prison term for anyone to knowingly marry or have sexual intercourse with a mental defective. Mentally defective children should attend compulsory training courses and not be permitted to attend regular classes. *An Act for the Prevention of Venereal Disease, 1918* which made it compulsory for people known or thought to have a venereal disease to be treated by a physician was one outcome of this commission.

## *51 Royal Commission re the Industrial Farm, Burwash*

Appointed on November 8, 1917. No indication given of Order in Council. Introductory material indicates *Public Inquiries Act* was authorizing statute.

**Commissioner:** Judge Emerson Coatsworth.

**Report:** Dated February 2, 1918. 42 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** The Industrial Farm at Burwash, near Sudbury, was established in 1914. It consisted of 35,000 acres which inmates were required to clear and prepare for cultivation. By 1917, over 300 inmates were producing enough produce, meat and supplies for the farm's own needs as well as those of other public institutions in Ontario. The Commission was appointed to inquire into the administration, management, conduct and welfare of the farm and its inmates. On the whole the farm was found to be well-designed, well-run with food and living conditions of superior quality. The lives of the prisoners, the work expected of them, the pioneer conditions they faced and the punishments they often received are described in detail.

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## *52 Commission to Investigate the Building Department of the Board of Education of the City of Toronto*

Appointed on January 9, 1918 by Order in Council 85/196 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice Haughton I.S. Lennox.

**Report:** Dated August 18, 1919. 91 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission conducted a thorough investigation into the organization and administration of the Toronto Board of Education's Building Department. It found that Mr. Bishop, the Superintendent of Buildings and Mr. Waste, the Board's architect, were almost completely incompetent in carrying out their responsibilities. There was little or no organization within the department and virtually no method of accounting in force. It was difficult to determine how much

was spent on certain projects, how much was owed and whether invoices submitted by contractors were honest. It was also found that the Chairman of the Board and other members and trustees were large suppliers to the Board. It was recommended that a "reorganization of a somewhat drastic character" be undertaken.

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## *53 Royal Commission into Police Matters*

Appointed on January 21, 1919 by Order in Council 91/275 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** Sir William Ralph Meredith, Chief Justice of Ontario, Silas R. Parsons, James Thomas Gunn.

**Report:** Dated May 22, 1919. 58 leaves, typescript. Includes minority reports and schedules.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Transcripts of hearings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Commission enquired into the administration of municipal police forces, the constitution of police commissions, the laws and regulations relating to police as well as police unions and the advisability of the organization and formation of such unions. It supported the right of members of a police force to form a union but stated they should not be associated with other labour organizations. They stated that there should be a representative from the police on the Board of Police Commissioners. Other matters discussed were pension schemes, a benefit fund, grievance procedures and punishment for violation of laws and regulations. The Commission also investigated the complaint of a former policeman who claimed that he was wrongfully dismissed because of personal injuries he inflicted on a newspaper reporter during a riot on August 3, 1918.

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## *54 Commission to Inquire into Certain Charges as to the Administration of the Ontario Temperance Act*

Appointed on March 29, 1919 by Order in Council 93/33 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Sir William Ralph Meredith.

**Report:** Dated March 18, 1920. 11 p. Only available as Sessional Paper no. 66, 1920.

**Notes:** Sessional Paper No. 66 is bound out of order at the end of vol. LII, Part VIII.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR (sessional paper copy only).
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** On March 20, 1919, Herbert Dewart, Liberal MPP, rose in the House and made several accusations against employees of the Board of Licence Commissioners for Ontario. The main charge centred around the practice of using private detective agencies to assist in enforcing the liquor laws of the province. The charges stated that some licence inspectors were benefiting personally from the employment of these agencies either because they had a financial interest in them or they were accepting kickbacks in return for using them on Department business. The Commission concluded that there was no foundation for these accusations and that detective agencies were essential to the "better enforcement of the law and in greatly lessening the cost of administration."

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## 55 *Inquiry re the Ontario Hospital, Hamilton*

Appointed on January 22, 1920 by Order in Council 99/386 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Commissioners:** Judge Colin G. Snider.

**Report:** Dated March 1, 1920. 20 leaves, typescript. Sessional Paper no. 87, 1920.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to inquire into and investigate the administration, management, conduct, discipline and welfare of the Ontario Hospital for the insane in Hamilton. There had been several charges alleging that attendants and nurses had used excessive violence against patients. In addition to refuting most of these charges, the Commission also found that the administration and management of the hospital were "good." The commission recommended that returning soldiers suffering from nervous disturbances be treated in a separate, special institution until they recover, and that different classes of patients be separated. Within the report, individual cases of mistreatment are discussed.

## 56 *Royal Commission to Investigate the Victoria Industrial School, Mimico*

Appointed on January 29, 1920 by Order in Council 100/104 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Chair:** Dr. John Waugh.

**Commissioners:** Dr. Helen MacMurchy, J.J. Kelso.

**Report:** Dated April 15, 1921. 7 leaves, typescript.

**Notes:** Dr. Waugh appointed a Special Committee of Enquiry to investigate and report upon the conditions connected with the admission of inmates, the physical and mental state of the inmates and methods used in the care and education of same. This special committee consisted of Judge H.S. Mott, chairman, J.P. Cowles, Dr. E.J. Pratt and Dr. Jas. W. Burton. Special Committee report. Dated January 4, 1921. 4 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous correspondence.

**Historical Background:** The Victoria Industrial School was a training school where boys involved in criminal activity, truancy, or suffering from mental or physical handicaps were placed. The Commission found that the school (which had been established in 1885) by 1924 was in a state of disrepair and was having trouble coping with the demands being placed on it. It recommended that this school be sold and that it be replaced by three other institutions. The first of these would be a Reception and Observation Home where new boys would be assessed. The second would be a training school for older boys with strong anti-social tendencies. And the third, a Provincial Auxiliary School, would house normal unfortunates, retarded and physically defective boys. Although an amendment to the *Industrial School Act* was passed in 1925, it was several years before the Industrial School was closed.

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## 57 *Commission of Enquiry, Kapuskasing Colony*

Appointed on February 21, 1920 by Order in Council 100/345 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the President of the Council.

**Chair:** W.F. Nickle.

**Commissioners:** John I. McLaren, John Sharp.

**Report:** Dated March 16, 1920. 15 p. Sessional Paper no. 61, 1920.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** The Kapuskasing Colony was established as a "Soldier's Colony" in 1917 intended for the settlement of returned soldiers. Many of the soldiers however, were unprepared for pioneer life and had little or no experience in agriculture or forestry. The difficulties faced by the colony resulted in the appointment of this Commission in 1920. The main problem faced by the settlers was their inability to earn a living until their land became productive - a waiting period of about five years. The Commission recommended that those settlers who wished to should be allowed to leave and be reimbursed for any improvements they made on their land and that the Department of Labour find them jobs. Those who decided to remain should be provided with a horse and harness, enough seed for the next season and $200. Of the 101 original settlers, nine decided to stay and continue working the land.

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## *58 Timber Commission*

Appointed on March 9, 1920 by Order in Council 101/130 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Lands, Forests and Mines.

**Commissioners:** William Renwick Riddell, Supreme Court Justice, Francis Robert Latchford, Supreme Court Justice.

**Report:** First interim report. Dated July 28, 1920. Second interim report. Dated October 30, 1920. Third interim report. Dated November 6, 1920. Interim reports, 8 p. Sessional Paper no. 67, 1921. Final report. Dated June 26, 1922. 65 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits, press clippings.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was instructed to investigate the accuracy of all returns made pursuant to the *Crown Timber Act*, all cutting by Timber Licenses on Crown Lands for which a timber licence had not been issued, any damage done through violations of the *Crown Timber Act* and to identify any persons or companies responsible for irregular practices. The commission

recommended that action be taken against two violators in particular, Walter H. Russell of Port Arthur and Shevlin-Clarke Company of Fort Frances. They were required to pay back over $1½ million to the Ontario government. Included in the Final Report are Special Reports on the Spanish River Lumber Company, the Marshay Lumber Company, the New Ontario Lumber Company and the Spanish River Pulp and Paper Mills, Ltd. After considerable investigation, the Commission recommended that legislation dealing with forestry matters be coordinated and amended to make regulations more consistent and enforceable.

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### 59 *Commission to Inquire into and Report upon the Rates of Wages Paid to the Men Employed by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission in the Construction of the Queenston-Chippawa Development, as Compared with the Rates Paid for Similar Service by Other Employers: The Ability of the Queenston-Chippawa Project to Pay Increased Wages: and the Living Conditions of the Men so Employed*

Appointed on May 19, 1920 by Order in Council 103/141 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** Edgar Watson.

**Commissioners:** M. MacBride, W.H. Casselman, A.E. Ross, J.C. Tolmie.

**Report:** Dated June 4, 1920. 7 p. Sessional Paper no. 77, 1921.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** The E.C. Drury government reacted quickly to reports of labour unrest among the workers of the Queenston-Chippawa Hydro-Electric project by establishing this Commission. It found that the scale of wages paid at the Queenston-Chippawa project compared favourably with other construction projects and that the Hydro Commission could not afford to pay higher wages. Although housing conditions were found to be satisfactory, it recommended that a Committee of workers be formed to bring complaints about housing to the attention of the Hydro Commission. There was much discussion about the eight hour work day and it was concluded (with one dissenting opinion) that Ontario should accept it in principle. The Commission recommended that the labourers on the Hydro Project work ten hour shifts but get paid time and a half for the two hours overtime.

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## *60 Commission to Inquire into the Seizure of a Railway Car of Whiskey at Chatham*

Appointed on May 29, 1920 by Order in Council 103/218 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Judge Talbot MacBeth.

**Report:** Dated January 24, 1921. 16 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** On April 21, 1920 a freight car containing 58 barrels of whiskey was seized by the Licence Inspector and High Constable for Kent County. While the car was under guard, a mass of men descended upon it and removed a large amount of the whiskey. The Licence Inspector as well as one of the guards were accused of being "tipsy" at the time. In the end it was determined that about 1,000 bottles had been stolen. The commissioner found that both the Licence Inspector and the High Constable were negligent in securing the shipment of whiskey. While the Licence Inspector was dismissed from his office, Judge MacBeth recommended that he not be "convicted of anything worse than fatuous imbecility and utter disregard of his instructions."

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## *61 Commission to Inquire into, Consider and Report upon the Best Mode of Selecting, Appointing and Remunerating Sheriffs, etc., etc.*

Appointed on June 30, 1920 by Order in Council 104/125 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** Walter D. Gregory.

**Commissioners:** Horace L. Brittain, Norman Sommerville, Albert Hellyer, E.A. Pocock.

**Report:** Dated 1921, 1922. Part 1. *Respecting Sheriffs.* 37 p. Sessional Paper no. 57, 1922. Part 2. *Respecting Police Magistrates.* 21 p. Sessional Paper no. 63, 1921. Part 3. *Respecting Issuers of Marriage Licenses.* 7 p. Sessional Paper no. 62, 1921. Part 4. *Respecting the Toronto Police Court.* 28 p. Part 5. *Respecting Coroners.* 10 p. Sessional Paper no. 80, 1921. Part 6. *Respecting the Extension of Land Titles System in Northern Ontario.* 6 p. Sessional Paper no. 69,

1922. Part 7. *Respecting Osgoode Hall.* 28 p. Part 8. *Respecting Toronto and York Registry Offices.* 6 p. Sessional Paper no, 65, 1922.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Public Service Commission. These are called interim reports but no further reports appeared.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Interim reports, 1 - 8.
**Archives Holdings:** Interim reports, 1 - 7.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was instructed to look into various offices of the public service of Ontario to determine how staff were selected, appointed and remunerated. The historical development of each office is presented, the practices of the present day outlined and remuneration examined. Recommendations were made relating to the reorganization of the various offices and adjustments to remuneration schedules. Various Acts were amended as a result of this commission including *The Coroners Act*, *The Sheriffs Act*, *The Marriage Act* and *The Police Magistrates Act*.

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## *62 Commission Appointed to Inquire into Hydro-Electric Railways*

Appointed on July 21, 1920 by Order in Council 107/307 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** The Honourable Robert Franklin Sutherland.

**Commissioners:** Charles Hamilton Mitchell, William Andrew Amos, Andrew Fullerton McCallum.

**Report:** Dated July 30, 1921. 234 p. Includes majority and minority reports and appendices. Sessional Paper no. 24, 1922.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Radial Railway Commission.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** The radial railway scheme was perhaps the project closest to Sir Adam Beck's heart. He envisioned a system of electric railways radiating out of Toronto and reaching into the cities and small towns of Ontario's heartland. They would also provide a major market for Ontario Hydro's electrical output. When this scheme was first proposed before the war, automobiles were scarce.

After the war, with the growing number of automobiles and mounting Hydro costs for other projects, support began to wane. In 1919 the new Premier, E.C. Drury, established the Royal Commission to make recommendations as to the future of the railroad. The Commission recommended that Beck's project be replaced with an electric railroad serving Toronto and its suburbs only. This railroad would operate under the direction of the municipality and would be coordinated with the existing street railways. Beck used all the power and influence at his disposal to keep his dream alive, but eventually had to admit defeat when the Drury government consequently refused to grant any more money to finance Beck's scheme.

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## *63 Royal Commission on University Finances*

Appointed on October 27, 1920 by Order in Council 107/1 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

**Chair:** Henry John Cody.

**Commissioners:** Sir John S. Willison, J. Alex Wallace, T.A. Russell, A.P. Deroche, C.R. Somerville.

**Report:** Dated February 10, 1921. 31 p. Sessional Paper no. 65, 1921.

**Notes:** Appendices, 160 p. Also in Sessional Paper. Bound with report.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to determine the basis upon which provincial financial aid should be paid to the University of Toronto, the University of Western Ontario and Queens. The Commission recommended that definite yearly grants be paid to all three universities as well as capital grants to erect new buildings. After the war, enrolment at the universities increased dramatically. To reduce the need to increase staff and enlarge the universities, the Commission recommended that the first year of university be transferred to the secondary schools, thus reducing the course work required for a bachelor's degree to three years.

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## 64 *Inquiry into Charges of Violations of the Ontario Temperance Act in Brockville*

Appointed November 30, 1920 by Order in Council 108/70 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Judge John Kelley Dowsley.

**Report:** Dated January 22, 1921. 5 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous correspondence.

**Historical Background:** James Young, an acknowledged bootlegger from Brockville, accused the Licence Inspector, F.B. Taber and his solicitor, C.B. Deacon of accepting protection money and allowing Young to sell liquor without being prosecuted. Judge Dowsley concluded, after hearing evidence, that none of the charges against Taber and Deacon were true.

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## 65 *Inquiry into Charges against David Hastings, Police Magistrate at Dunnville [re enforcement of Ontario Temperance Act]*

Appointed on December 17, 1920 by Order in Council 108/295 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** John A. Patterson.

**Report:** Dated April 29, 1921. 19 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Exhibits, newspaper clippings, miscellaneous correspondence.

**Historical Background:** David Hastings, the Police Magistrate at Dunnville, was charged by several people of the town with not enforcing the *Ontario Temperance Act*. He was a newspaper man and active politician and had frequently spoken against the Act. Some specific charges against Hastings were that he notified suspects of impending arrest, imposed lighter penalties than prescribed by the Act and frequently dismissed charges. The Attorney General asked for Hastings' resignation but he refused and asked that this inquiry be set up instead. Commissioner Patterson found that while Hastings was a substantial and upright citizen, most of the charges against him contained at least an element of truth.

Consequently, he recommended that Hastings be discharged of his duties as Police Magistrate.

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## *66 Toronto Police Court Inquiry*

Appointed on May 12, 1921 by Order in Council 11/393 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** His Honour Judge H.A. Ward.

**Report:** Interim report. n.d. 40 leaves, typescript, report missing. Final report. Dated September 23, 1921. 49 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (final report only - microfiche), OTAR (final report only).
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** This Inquiry arose out of charges made against two police court interpreters, one Italian and one German, and the Crown Attorney, of accepting bribes in return for lighter sentences. Twelve sworn statements were included as evidence, mostly from recent immigrants, outlining instances where the court interpreters extorted money by threatening them with incarceration or heavy fines. The report also paints a picture of the seamier side of Toronto at the time including prostitution, houses of ill-repute and drinking. Judge Ward found that, under cross-examination, most of the testimony was refuted and exonerated the interpreters and the Crown Attorney, Seymour Corley. However, Ward did find that, since the interpreters were not paid a salary, it left them open to taking bribes and suggested that they be paid a regular salary.

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## *67 Inquiry to Investigate Charges Made by George A. Laing against the Police Magistrate and License Inspector of Welland*

Appointed on September 28, 1921 by Order in Council 114/407 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Judge John S. Campbell.

**Report:** Dated November 30, 1921. 11 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** George Laing, the former Chief of Police at Welland who had been dismissed from his position, claimed that members of the force at Welland had taken bribes, robbed prisoners, robbed stores at night and had violated the *Ontario Temperance Act*. One particular charge was against the Police Magistrate John Goodwin who Laing said had confiscated liquor for his own purposes and had driven a car while intoxicated. Judge Campbell concluded that Laing was of a disreputable character and a self-confessed taker of bribes, and that none of the charges made by him were supported by evidence.

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## 68 *Commission to Investigate the Financial Affairs of the Town of Oshawa*

Appointed on February 28, 1922 by Order in Council 118/200 pursuant to Section 313 of the *Municipal Act* with all power conferred by the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Commissioner:** Holland Pettit.

**Report:** Dated September 27, 1922. 13 p. Includes financial schedules.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR

**Historical Background:** Because no other legislation covered it, Royal Commissions were sometimes called to inquire into the financial affairs of municipalities. This investigation covered accounts of the Town, the Board of Education, the Board of the Water Commissions, the Parks Board, the Public Library Board and the Housing Commission for the year 1921. Not only were the books in bad shape, but the provisions of the *Municipal Act* were often not carried out causing a considerable loss to town revenue. The Commissioner found that tax arrears were not being collected, sales of land for arrears were not taking place and no comprehensive budget existed. He recommended that there be a monthly reporting to the Town Council on the financial position of the Town.

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## 69 *Northern Ontario Fire Investigation*

No indication of date of appointment or Order in Council. Introductory material indicates the *Fire Marshalls Act* was authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Commissioner:** E.P. Heaton, Fire Marshall.

**Report:** Dated December 15, 1922. 52 leaves, typescript, maps, photographs. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** On October 4, 1922 a massive forest fire raged through the District of Temiskaming devastating 20 townships and engulfing the towns of Haileybury, North Cobalt, New Liskeard and Charlton. Forty-four lives were lost and damages amounted to over $6,000,000. This Commission investigated all aspects of the fire including topography, weather conditions, legislation regarding fire protection and economic activity in the area as well as the origin of the fire itself. The main cause was determined to be a combination of hot, dry conditions and several fires set by farmers to clear the land. When a huge wind blew up on the morning of October 4, these smaller fires united and the conflagration was underway. Mindful of the difficulties faced by settlers in clearing the land, the Commission did not recommend banning the practice of setting fires. It did recommend that all townships appoint fire marshalls who would in turn grant permits for the setting of fires. Another recommendation was that large strips of land be cleared around settlements and municipalities to retard the progress of any fire.

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## *70 Hydro Electric Inquiry Commission*

Appointed on April 13, 1922 by Order in Council 119/205 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Walter D. Gregory.

**Commissioners:** M. J. Haney, Lloyd Harris, J. Allen Ross, R.A. Ross.

**Report:** Dated March 5, 1924. 239 leaves, typescript. Plus appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Interim reports.
**Archives Holdings:** Interim reports, miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** With the cost of the Queenston-Chippewa power development rising far above the estimates submitted by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, and other costs incurred by Hydro growing out of control, the

province found itself on the brink of bankruptcy. This Commission was appointed to inquire into the Queenston-Chippewa development and determine the reasons for the increase in its estimates and the total cost of the development including its construction and administration. All other power developments undertaken by Hydro were also examined. It was an exhaustive inquiry which produced several volumes of interim reports. The Commissioners, although lauding the accomplishments of Hydro, were very critical of its operating methods. In most cases estimates for the transmission of power to municipalities bore little relation to the actual cost. Legal costs were excessive with large amounts often paid to a few favoured firms. Construction projects were unjustifiably elaborate and costly. The chair of Ontario Hydro, Sir Adam Beck, also came under severe criticism as it was his influence and style of leadership that led to the abuses of authority made by Hydro. He gave little regard to Legislative authority, making Hydro a law unto itself so that, in effect, the Treasury of the Province was placed at its disposal. The Commission recommended that Hydro work more closely with government in determining policies, expenditures, financing and legislation.

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## 71 *Inquiry into the Truth or Falsity of Certain Charges, etc., Contained in Speech Delivered by A.C. Lewis, Esq., M.L.A. in the Legislative Assembly, Reflecting on the Administration of the Attorney General's Department in Respect of the Investigation into the Death of Captain Orville Huston, at Fort Frances*

Appointed on April 28, 1922 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General. No indication of Order in Council or authorizing statute.

**Commissioner:** John Alexander Macintosh, K.C.

**Report:** Dated June 12, 1922. 54 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** On April 27, 1922, A.C. Lewis, an MPP from Toronto, made statements in the Legislature concerning the death of Captain Orville Huston in Fort Frances the previous December. He believed that the investigation into the death was being influenced by E.W. Backus, president of the Fort Frances Pulp and Paper Company, the Keewatin Company, the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company and the International Lumber Co. of International Falls, Minnesota. Backus had business dealings with Huston previously and had some cause to do away with him. There was a widespread belief that Huston's death was murder and

not suicide as many involved in the investigation had concluded. The report of this Commission, which gives an interesting insight into the operations of a Northern Ontario lumber business, concluded that the investigation (which was still ongoing) was being conducted "honestly, zealously, and efficiently" and that there was no evidence of undue influence being exerted or of negligence of any kind. It was not within the terms of reference of this Commission, however, to express any opinion as to the cause of death.

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## 72 *Inquiry into the Financial Affairs of the Town of Cobourg and any Matter Connected Therewith*

Appointed on May 8, 1922 by Order in Council 119/408 under the *Municipal Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Commissioner:** Gordon A. Peters.

**Report:** Interim report. Dated June 27, 1922. 2 leaves, typescript. Final report. Dated August 14, 1922. 52 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This was an audit of the financial affairs of the Town of Cobourg. The accountant assigned to carry out the audit found that the town accounts had been sloppily managed, singling out the Treasurer and Town Solicitor for particular criticism. The assessment rolls were not properly maintained, the tax collector did not carry out his duties properly, the Court of Revision minutes were not properly kept, expenditures exceeded income and over $4,000 was missing.

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## 73 *Inquiry Regarding Certain Officers and Employees of the Colonization Roads Branch, Department of Lands and Forests*

Appointed on November 16, 1922 by Order in Council 124/298 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Lands and Forests.

**Commissioner:** Gordon Waldron.

**Report:** 1922. Report missing.

**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, correspondence and exhibits only.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry concerned a dispute between the Colonization Roads Branch and Merrill Denison, the owner of a resort hotel at Bon Echo, over the re-routing of the Addington Road from Kaladar to Denbigh in Frontenac County. Denison wanted the road to run near his hotel and began interfering with the design and location of the road. When the road engineer resisted some of his suggestions, Denison charged that the employees were incompetent and were guilty of drunkenness. Although the report of this Commission is missing, from the proceedings it is apparent that Waldron did not believe the charges made by Denison and exonerated the Colonization Roads Branch employees.

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## 74 *Commission to Inquire into Financial Affairs of the Township of Markham*

Appointed on October 2, 1924. No indication of Order in Council or authorizing statute.

**Commissioner:** W. J. McCoy.

**Report:** Dated February 27, 1925. 7 leaves, typescript. Includes financial appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was called in response to a petition of ratepayers who insisted that the financial affairs of the town be investigated. The Commissioner, W.J. McCoy, an accountant, found several instances of faulty recordkeeping especially with regard to the assessment rolls. Since the town had no ledger, Mr. McCoy set one up and recommended that bills go before a Financial Committee before being paid.

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## 75 *Inquiry into Charges Made by One E.C. Settell with Regard to the Administration of the Affairs of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario*

Appointed on October 13, 1924. No indication of Order in Council or authorizing statute.

**Commissioner:** Colin G. Snider.

**Report:** Dated December 6, 1924. 94 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed in response to charges made by E.C. Settell, Secretary-Treasurer and Accountant with the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission and private secretary to Sir Adam Beck, Hydro's chairman. Implicated in the charges were the Chief Engineer for Hydro, F.A. Gaby, I.B. Lucas, former Attorney General for the Province and Solicitor for Hydro and other top officials. Of 85 charges made by Settell, 19 were found to be true or partly true. The charges related to such things as misuse of funds, payment of bribes to city officials and use of automobiles belonging to Hydro for private business. Officers of Hydro were also suspected of recommending purchases of equipment sold by their own companies and choosing bids higher than others submitted. It appears that Beck benefitted significantly from his association with Hydro through the acquisition of many personal items including cars, trips and household appliances. Sir Adam Beck was reprimanded for those charges against him which were found to be true. Settell gave his evidence to the Commission from the confines of the Wentworth County Jail. He had been caught attempting to cross into the U.S. at Niagara Falls with $22,000 of Ontario Hydro money in his pocket.

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## *76 Glenelg Township Land Patent Inquiry (See also #86)*

Appointed on March 25, 1925 by Order in Council 143/426 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Lands and Forests.

**Commissioner:** Fernando Elwood Titus.

**Report:** Dated September 23, 1925. 10 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits, miscellaneous correspondence.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was called to determine the rightful owners of a plot of land in Glenelg Township, Grey County. The original owner, John Bowers purchased the lot in 1855. Because the land was not continuously worked by his successors and other people were interested in it the question of ownership was unclear. The Commission awarded the title to two sons who had occupied the

land from time to time and gave them the right to dispose of it as they wished. This Commission was instituted to settle the matter because land patents were not regulated by any special statute.

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## 77 *Commission on the Prices of Gasolines and Oils Sold to the People of Ontario (See also #168)*

Appointed on June 5, 1925 by Order in Council 145/204 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** G.T. Clarkson.

**Report:** Dated January 11, 1926. 27 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed in reaction to the wide difference in prices charged for gasoline between Ontario and the United States during the period March 1 to November 1, 1924. Commissioner Clarkson was asked to investigate how prices for automobile lubricating oil and gasoline were determined and whether they were just and fair. Much of the information was obtained through questionnaires distributed throughout the industry. Because of the sensitivity of this information, statistics were drawn up covering the industry in general but not attributed to any company in particular. The report contains tables and other information respecting price spreads and explains how costs are determined. The Commissioner concluded that prices for oil and gasoline were fair and profits reasonable. The reason for the price difference was a temporary glut of crude oil on the American market which caused a reduction in price in the U.S.

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## 78 *Inquiry into the Industrial Farm at Langstaff and the Women's Farm at Concord*

Appointed on January 22, 1926. No indication of Order in Council or authorizing statute.

**Commissioners:** A.L. McPherson, Col. W.W. Denison.

**Report:** Dated April 22, 1926. 7 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry involved a conflict between the Superintendent and the Property Commissioner over the running of the Industrial Farm for Men at Langstaff and the Women's Farm at Concord, both owned by the City of Toronto. The Superintendent and most of the staff were hired by the provincial government while the Property Commissioner in charge of the physical plant was a city employee. Strong disagreements arose between the two and eventually this inquiry was called to resolve the matter. The Superintendent, Major Morrison, was accused of talking to the prisoners and reviewing their cases with them, showing favoritism to both prisoners and guards and interfering with the staff. The Commissioners found Morrison to be "untruthful, domineering, incompetent and totally unworthy of his position". There is some interesting testimony on the workings of a prison farm, particularly the treatment of drug addicts and women with venereal disease.

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## *79 Ottawa Collegiate Institute Inquiry*

Appointed on October 26, 1926 by Order in Council 154/417 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice John F. Orde.

**Report:** Dated January 6, 1927. 20 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was inaugurated because of statements made by Rev. E.B. Wyllie, a minister of the Presbyterian Church, about students in the Lisgar and Glebe Collegiate Institutes in Ottawa. He claimed that these co-educational high schools were not the best places to educate growing boys. Boys were taught by immature women and girls, claimed Wyllie, and conditions prevailing in their yearly dances were highly suspect and "simply unspeakable." The Commission found that none of Wyllie's statements was supported by facts and he was reprimanded for acting irresponsibly. This Commission is interesting for the insight it gives into the social life and attitudes of high school students in the middle of the "Roaring Twenties."

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## *80 Hollinger Mine Inquiry*

Appointed on February 17, 1928 by Order in Council 163/116 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice Thomas E. Godson.

**Report:** Part I (causes). Dated May 17, 1928. 21 leaves, typescript. Part II (recommendations). Dated September 28, 1928. 13 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** On February 10, 1928 a fire started in the Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mine in Timmins which burned for five days. Thirty-nine men lost their lives. This was the first fire in a mine in Ontario and this Commission was called to discover its cause. An extensive investigation followed but, in the end, no one group was assigned the blame. A contributing cause to the catastrophe, although not determined to be the main cause, was the practice of building structures to thaw explosives underground and then disposing of the refuse (fuses and caphouses, paraffin paper, powder boxes, sawdust, fuse ends and detonators) in disused slopes underground. The Commission determined that this was "not a case of a recognized danger being cast aside, but of a danger going unrecognized." Several recommendations were made which were incorporated into Bill 70, *An Act to Amend the Mining Act, 1929*. Some of its provisions were that all underground foremen speak and understand English; that buildings used to thaw explosives be built under the specific direction of the Inspector of Mines; that all underground structures be fireproofed and flammable waste be taken to the surface; and that rescue stations be established at strategic spots underground.

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## *81 Inquiry into Certain Irregularities in Connection with Ballots in the Electoral District of South Ottawa*

Appointed on March 1, 1928 by Order in Council 163/243 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioners:** James Magee, Supreme Court Justice, Frank E. Hodgins, Supreme Court Justice.

**Report:** Dated April 11, 1928. 19 leaves, typescript.
**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** Several months following the provincial election of December 1, 1926 several hundred unused ballots were found in a storeroom and scattered about a street in Ottawa. William Sinclair, the Liberal leader and member for Ottawa South demanded and got, an inquiry into this apparent violation of the *Election Act*. The Commission found that, although there was no criminal activity, the returning officer had been negligent in keeping an account of all the ballots delivered, used and returned by the various polling stations. The results of the election were not affected by these irregularities. An amendment to the *The Election Act* (Bill 65), ensuring that proper accounting procedures were followed at all stages of the printing and distribution of ballot sheets, was passed in 1929.

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## *82 London Gaol Inquiry*

Appointed on December 13, 1928 by Order in Council 161/410 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Commissioner:** Judge Arthur T. Boles.

**Report:** Dated April 7, 1928. 21 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This was an inquiry into the security of the London Gaol after a number of escapes had been reported since 1922. Judge Boles found several lapses in the management of the jail including defective locks, insufficient staff and extremely lax security measures. Several recommendations were put forward to correct these defects.

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## *83 Royal Commission on Automobile Insurance Premium Rates*

Appointed on February 8, 1929 by Order in Council 117/50 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Frank E. Hodgins.

**Report:** Third edition of interim report. Dated March 3, 1930. 85 p. Includes text of acts in appendices, 22 p. Sessional Paper no. 15, 1930. Final report. Dated December 20, 1930. 116 p. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 31, 1931.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Interim and final report.
**Archives Holdings:** Interim and final report.

**Historical Background:** This was a thorough investigation into the provision of automobile insurance to the people of Ontario. The Commission considered the reasonableness of automobile insurance premiums, the methods used by the Canadian Automobile Underwriters Association to control rates as well as all existing legislation in Ontario designed to control rates. Comparisons were made with the U.S. and Great Britain. Compulsory insurance was investigated but was recommended only for people who commit important breaches of the *Highway Traffic Act*. Other recommendations included the suspension or cancellation of licences following major accidents; the classification of drivers according to their conviction and safety record; the maintenance of statistics on insurance premiums and claims, and the right of the government to adjust rates if they were found to be excessive, inadequate or discriminatory. The report also suggested that insurance companies institute a merit rating system so that those with good driving records pay smaller premiums and that insurance agents be more rigorously screened before being licensed.

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## *84 The Royal Commission on Public Welfare*

Appointed on September 10, 1929 by Order in Council 175/293 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General. Appointed to investigate provision of services in hospitals, prisons and other provincial institutions.

**Chair:** Philip Dansken Ross.

**Commissioners:** D.M. Wright, J.M. McCutcheon.

**Report:** Dated August 13, 1930. ii, 111 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission investigated the system of public welfare which existed in the province at the time including public and private hospitals and sanitaria, Ontario Hospitals for the Insane, correctional institutes,

houses of refuge and agencies for the care of children. The Commission found that most of these institutions were badly over-crowded and in need of funding. A severe shortage of social workers was identified. Commissioner Ross recommended that universities increase their capacity to train social workers so that the province would be able to provide follow-up care for people released from hospitals, prisons and child care agencies. His major recommendation was for the creation of a Department of Public Welfare which would co-ordinate public welfare services throughout the province. This was accomplished with the passing of *The Department of Public Welfare Act* in 1931.

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## *85 Commission in the Matter of the Workmen's Compensation Act*

Appointed on January 22, 1931 by Order in Council 185/452 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice William E. Middleton.

**Report:** Dated February 11, 1932. 17 p. Sessional Paper no. 37, 1932.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established in response to a report recommending changes to the *Workmen's Compensation Act* submitted to the Trades and Labour Congress at Edmonton in 1927. The Royal Commission considered the report and then made its own recommendations as to whether to amend the Act or not. This amounted to the first review of the Act since it was passed in 1914. Most of the recommendations suggested by the Trades and Labour Congress were turned down. None of the recommendations for increased compensation were accepted as they would put too heavy a burden on the already depressed industries of the province. An important concern of the Trades and Labour Congress was that the practice of having certain large industries (the railroads and Bell Telephone) pay compensation directly be discontinued. Because injured workers were examined by company doctors and payments came directly from company revenues, these workers tended to be paid less than those compensated from the general fund. Mr. Justice Middleton rejected this recommendation suggesting that workers paid from the general fund were often over-compensated. Recommendations accepted by the Commission were included in *An Act to Amend the Workmen's Compensation Act*, 1932.

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## 86 *Inquiry into Ownership of the North One-Half of Lot Number Seven, Ninth Concession, Township of Glenelg, County of Grey (See also #76)*

Appointed on May 7, 1931 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Lands and Forests. No indication of Order in Council. Introductory material indicates *Public Inquiries Act* was authorizing statute.

**Commissioner:** Fernando Elwood Titus.

**Report:** Dated June 23, 1931. 6 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This was an inquiry called to investigate the validity of claims made against a piece of land in Grey County by descendants of the original owner. This was not so much a Commission of Inquiry as a hearing to determine the rightful owner of the property in question.

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## 87 *Royal Commission on the Use of Radium and X-Rays in the Treatment of the Sick, etc.*

Appointed on May 29, 1931 by Order in Council 188/368 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Honourable Dr. Henry John Cody.

**Commissioners:** Prof. John Cunningham McLennan, Dr. Walter Thomas Connell, Arthur R. Ford.

**Report:** Dated February 29, 1932. 171 p. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 41, 1932.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to report to the Government on the advisability of establishing cancer research institutes and clinics to facilitate the treatment of cancer through the use of radium and x-rays. There had been an alarming increase in the number of deaths related to cancer since the turn of the century to the point where it had replaced tuberculosis as the second

greatest cause of death after heart disease. The report contains tables on rates of various types of cancer in the Ontario population from 1920-30. Reports on rates of cancer and its treatment in Canada, the U.S., Great Britain and other European countries and India are also presented. The Appendix includes a list of recommendations on how to protect people who work with x-rays and radium. The Commission recommended that the treatment of cancer by x-rays and radium be supported by the government.

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## 88 *Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into Certain Matters Concerning the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario Namely: (a) The Mississippi and Madawaska Purchase (b) The Possible Relationship of the Payment to John Aird Jr. to the Purchase of Power from the Beauharnois Interests. (c) Purchase of the Assets of the Dominion Power and Transmission Company Limited.*

Appointed On August 19, 1932 by Order in Council 197/156 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioners:** The Honourable Mr. Justice William Renwick Riddell, The Honourable Mr. Justice George H. Sedgewick. Original Order in Council 193/458 of February 3, 1932 appointed The Honourable Mr. Justice William E. Middleton who was unable to act due to illness. The Order in Council 195/84 of April 16, 1932 appointed The Honourable Mr. Justice John F. Orde who died August 1, 1932 before being able to submit a report.

**Report:** Dated October 31, 1932. 11 p. Sessional Paper no. 34, 1933.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to investigate the propriety of money paid by Hydro to John Aird Jr. for the part he played in setting up the purchase of two electric power companies. There were intimations in the Commissioner's report, but no direct charges, that the $50,000 paid to John Aird Jr. by the M.J. O'Brien Company and the $125,000 paid to him by the Beauharnois Interests were in return for the influence he was able to exert on the government that resulted in the Hydro-Electric Power Commission purchasing the property of these companies. In neither case, however, did the Commissioners find that these payments were improper. The Commission also investigated the purchase by Hydro of the Dominion Power and Transmission Co. Ltd. to determine whether the price paid was excessive. It concluded that, "the business and dealings of the

Commission [Hydro] and its staff have in every respect been conducted on the highest business principles and with great skill and rectitude."

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## *89 Inquiry as to the Handling of Unemployment and Direct Relief at Sturgeon Falls*

Appointed on January 9, 1933 by Order in Council 199/468 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** Judge James Hall.

**Report:** Dated March 7, 1933. 49 leaves, typescript. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was an investigation into the methods used by the Town of Sturgeon Falls to administer its unemployment relief fund. Of particular concern was the provision of direct relief which included food, clothing, fuel, shelter and medical services. The Commission found that officials of the town, particularly the Mayor and Treasurer, had used fraudulent means to increase the relief grants paid to the town by the federal and provincial governments. The detailed accounting information contained in the report gives an interesting insight into the plight of a town attempting to survive the Depression as its revenues decreased, while the demands on it to feed, clothe and house the poor were on the rise.

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## *90 Royal Commission to Inquire into and Report upon the Events and Circumstances Connected with the Arrest of Albert Dorland and William Toohey*

Appointed on March 28, 1933 by Order in Council 201/75 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice A.C. Kingstone.

**Report:** Dated July 27, 1933. xliii leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Royal Commission investigated one of the most sensational cases of the thirties. Acting on the information of an informer (Toohey), Toronto police set up an ambush to capture robbers in the act of robbing a branch of the Royal Bank at the corner of Church and Wellesley Streets in April 1930. The shoot-out which resulted dubbed "the Battle of Wellesley Plains" by the press, led to the arrest of Dorland and Toohey, even though they had changed their minds about robbing the bank and were driving away. The police, intent on keeping hidden their own and Toohey's involvement in encouraging Dorland to rob the bank, released Toohey. Dorland was subsequently sentenced to 5 years in the Kingston Penitentiary. The cover-up began to unravel a few years later and a police commission, and later this Royal Commission, were appointed to unearth the facts. The Commissioner found that the police did attempt to cover up their part in encouraging the robbery, and recommended that charges be laid against the four officers who shot up the car (they were subsequently tried and acquitted). Both the Police Chief and Inspector of Detectives were condemned for their part in the affair. The Commissioner also criticized the fact that the Magistrate who sentenced Dorland also sat on the Police Commission set up to investigate the handling of the affair.

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## *91 Commission to Inquire into the Handling of the Unemployment Relief Fund in the Township of York*

Appointed on May 12, 1933 by Order in Council 202/5 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** Judge James McNairn Hall.

**Report:** Dated October 30, 1933. 74 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was an investigation into the Township's handling of an indirect relief fund which provided work for the unemployed. The Commission found at least fourteen instances in which the Township made improper claims on the relief fund all of which are outlined in the report. While the funds obtained this way were used to pay for various municipal works there was no indication that any official or employee had derived any personal benefit by reason of these irregularities.

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## 92 *Royal Commission to Inquire into the Purchase of the Bonds of the Ontario Power Service Corporation by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and the Payment Therefore in the Bonds of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, and All the Circumstances Connected Therewith*

Appointed on July 12, 1934 by Order in Council 209/260 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** The Honourable Francis Robert Latchford, Supreme Court Justice, The Honourable Robert Smith, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

**Report:** Dated October 20, 1934. 43 leaves, typescript.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Inquiry into the Hydro-Electric Power Commission. Report is also available in the *Twenty-Seventh Annual Report of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission* as Appendix IV, pp. 448-474.

**Report Locations:** OTL printed report, OTAR typescript.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This was the first Commission appointed by the newly elected Liberal Government and signalled Premier Mitch Hepburn's resolve to detect and expose the previous government's extravagant and often corrupt practices. The Commission was charged with investigating all matters concerned with the purchase of the Ontario Power Service Corporation bonds and the involvement in the transaction of former Canadian Prime Minister Arthur Meighen, who was then on the Board of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission, and George Henry, the Conservative Premier in the previous administration. The Commission found that Hydro's decision to purchase power from the Ontario Power Service Corporation via its proposed development on the Abitibi River was extravagant because it could have been purchased under better terms from another company located closer to where the power was needed. Furthermore, the Commission soundly condemned both Meighen and Henry for being involved in the negotiations when they stood to benefit by reason of their considerable personal investments in the company.

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## 93 *Niagara Parks Commission Enquiry*

Appointed on July 17, 1934 by Order in Council 209/286 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioners:** Armand Racine, Henry J. Welch.

**Report:** Dated August 2, 1934. 17 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was instituted by the Hepburn government to investigate the management of the Niagara Parks system with a view to correcting inefficient and extravagant practices. The Commission found that, contrary to their mandate, the Niagara Parks Commission had become increasingly removed from the day-to-day affairs of the Park over the years. As a result of this negligence, no definite policies existed regarding the development of the Park and its relation to the public. In particular there were no attempts made to appeal to the increasingly motorized tourist trade. The Commission also found many instances of needless extravagance including the purchase of expensive automobiles and money spent on entertaining Commission members and their friends. Recommendations were designed to "liberalize and modernize" Park management in order to reduce costs and increase revenue. They called for more frequent meetings of Commissioners, resignation of most of the top ranking management staff, reduction in overall staff size and an increase in automobile accessibility to the Park.

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## *94 Inquiry Respecting the Appointment and Resignation of Daniel McCaughrin, Police Magistrate*

Appointed on July 26, 1934 by Order in Council 209/365 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General and Minister of Labour.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Robert Grant Fisher.

**Report:** Dated September 6, 1934. 8 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established to inquire into matters concerning the appointment of Daniel McCaughrin as Police Magistrate of Orillia in 1927, and his subsequent resignation in 1933. Since his appointment, the Attorney General had received complaints about McCaughrin's inability to carry out duties ascribed to him. In short, "he was inefficient from lack of capacity and legal knowledge." Finally, in 1933, he was persuaded to resign. Shortly thereafter he

complained that this resignation was bought by an offer of $2000 from the Magistrate appointed to replace him. The Commissioner endeavoured to determine whether this was, in fact, a sale of a government office. Mr. Justice Fisher found that although the money was offered to McCaughrin, it was intended as a pension since McCaughrin had no other source of income to support him and his ailing wife. The obvious unfitness of McCaughrin for his position led Fisher to criticize the Attorney General for being "derelict in his duty" for not discharging him earlier.

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## *95 Inquiry into Ontario Provincial Air Service*

Appointed on July 26, 1934 by Order in Council 209/374 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Lands and Forests.

**Commissioner:** Daniel Webster Lang, K.C.

**Report:** Dated October 30, 1934. 15 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** The Ontario Provincial Air Service was inaugurated in 1924 under the wing of the Ministry of Lands and Forests for the purpose of detecting and suppressing forest fires. The main base was located in Sault Ste. Marie and a secondary base in Sioux Lookout. This service was run as a one-man operation under the director W.R. Maxwell. The Commissioner, D. W. Lang, found numerous irregularities in the operation of the Air Service. Most of these had to do with the Service paying more for planes and equipment than was necessary and evidence was presented that Maxwell and his friends and even two of the Ministers of Lands and Forests had received money and other benefits from the Air Service. Recommendations dealt mainly with ways through which the Air Service could be better managed and the detection of forest fires could be improved.

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## *96 Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Inquiry*

Appointed on August 8, 1934 by Order in Council 209/507 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** Armand Racine.

**Report:** Dated October 4, 1934. 25 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** The construction of the Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway (now the Ontario Northland Railway) began in 1901 and was largely completed by 1932. It was built to open up the North for agricultural settlement and to provide access to the valuable timber and mineral resources of the Cochrane district. From 1929 on, the Railway, although reporting a surplus, experienced large deficits every year amounting to over $9 million by 1933. The Commission was appointed to investigate the reasons for this financial situation. It found the railway to be extremely badly run. Tendering procedures were not followed properly and the office was over-staffed and over-paid with senior management awarding themselves bonuses while at the same time reducing wages to union labour. Recommendations included the firing or pensioning off of most of the management staff, the closing down of some branch lines and a hotel in Moosonee, the cessation of payments to railway Commissioners, and the elimination of free passes and a private railway car.

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## *97 Elections Inquiry Commission*

Appointed on August 14, 1934 by Order in Council 210/5 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** I.A. Humphries, K.C. (Deputy Attorney General).

**Report:** Dated March 9, 1935. 12 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This was an investigation into irregularities that occurred in the Toronto riding of St. Patrick during the June 19, 1934 Provincial election. In this riding the Liberal candidate, Col. F. Fraser Hunter, narrowly defeated the Conservative incumbent, Edward J. Murphy, by 18 votes. Many minor transgressions of the voting regulations were revealed. The major wrong-doing, however, involved the deliberate spoiling of 60 ballots. Although the returning officer was implicated in this matter there was no clear evidence as to his guilt.

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## 98 *Inquiry into the Ontario Athletic Commission*

Appointed on October 17, 1934 by Order in Council 211/363 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Health.

**Commissioner:** Chester Samuel Walters (Deputy Minister of Public Works).

**Report:** Dated January 15, 1935. 18 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to look into the conduct, management and administration of the Ontario Athletic Commission. The Athletic Commission was established in 1925 to promote amateur sport in the province. By 1934 it had become apparent that the body had fallen far short of fulfilling its objectives and had incurred some heavy financial liabilities as well. In order to obtain revenue it had devoted most of its energies to promoting wrestling and boxing bouts. Its other major project was a camp at Lake Couchiching devoted to improving the performances of a small group of talented high school track and field athletes. Much criticism was levelled at Conservative MPP, T.A. Murphy, the Chairman of the Athletic Commission, for the improper and lax management of the Commission and for apparently pocketing excessive amounts of expense money and accepting unauthorized payments from a wrestling promoter.

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## 99 *Liquor Control Board Inquiry*

Appointed on October 30, 1934 by Order in Council 212/9 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General and Minister of Labour.

**Commissioner:** Judge Duncan Campbell Ross.

**Report:** Dated June 28, 1935. 48 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission dealt with three matters in particular: the official activities of the Liquor Control Board and its records, the manner in which certain leases for liquor stores were awarded, and the manner in which brands were listed and purchased by the Board. The Commission found that the Board kept no records of its meetings and resolutions and therefore recommended that a

Minute Book be established. The remainder of the report was a resounding condemnation of the influence of and interference by members of the Conservative Party, including MPPs and a Minister, on the decisions of the Board regarding the granting of leases and listing of Brands represented by agents friendly to the Conservative Party. Commissioner Ross recommended that the Board scrutinize all leases to ensure the best price be obtained and that it purchase liquor directly from vendors rather than through agents.

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## *100 Royal Commission on Border Cities Amalgamation*

Appointed on December 5, 1934 by Order in Council 213/1 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Public Welfare and Municipal Affairs.

**Chair:** Judge John J. Coughlin.

**Commissioners:** Horace L. Brittain (Vice-chair), S.E. McGorman, J. Clark Keith, Herbert L. Cummings.

**Report:** Dated April 10, 1935. 35 p.

**Notes:** At head of title: Department of Municipal Affairs.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, statistical information, working papers.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to inquire into the best means of bringing about the amalgamation of Windsor, East Windsor, Walkerville and Sandwich. Amalgamation in order to provide better services, more cheaply, had been tried several times previously but objections had always arisen based on the differing amounts of liabilities and assets brought to the new city by each of the different communities. This report suggested specific ways through which the union could be achieved. The report also discusses the automotive industry in Windsor and Detroit and the effect on it of the Depression.

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## *101 Royal Commission into the Affairs of the Department of Northern Development in the District of South Cochrane*

Appointed on May 15, 1935 by Order in Council 215/367 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Lands and Forests.

**Commissioner:** William B. Common, K.C.

**Report:** Dated March 7, 1936. 32 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was set up following allegations made in the press by John Rowlandson, Liberal MPP for Cochrane South, and supported by employees and ex-employees of the Department of Northern Development, that the department suffered from mismanagement and impropriety in its administration. Most of the complaints centred around the allocation of relief work. In particular, many members of the local Liberal Association complained that now that their Party was in power they should have more say in who was chosen for relief work. Other complaints related to shoddy workmanship on roads and a dam that had given way only a year after it was built. On the whole, the Commissioner felt the complaints (except in the case of the dam) had nothing to do with impropriety or mismanagement and therefore lay outside his terms of reference. The complaints, however, did illustrate the existence of bad morale which the Commissioner felt could be rectified by transferring two of the top executives.

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## *102 Inquiry into the Internal Management of the Ontario Hospital, Mimico*

Appointed on July 24, 1935 by Order in Council 215/390 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Health.

**Commissioner:** William B. Common, K.C.

**Report:** Dated December 31, 1935. 28 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** Following complaints made by former employees of the Ontario Hospital in Mimico (a mental institution), the Province established this Commission to investigate. The complaints concerned physical attacks made on the patients by members of the staff as well as other instances of maltreatment including herding together several patients into one shower cubicle, giving patients cold baths as punishment, administering drugs in the absence of a physician, unreasonable delays in having doctors see patients and bad, unappetizing food. The Commissioner found that most of the charges could not be substantiated and that the hospital was run in an efficient manner by well-trained staff.

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## *103 Toronto Police Inquiry*

Appointed on December 19, 1935 by Order in Council 217/449 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioners:** Judge Duncan Campbell Ross, Judge John J. Coughlin.

**Report:** Dated February 26, 1936. 51 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL.

**Historical Background:** In 1933, a theft ring consisting of up to 25 officers of No. 1 Division of the Toronto Police Force, was uncovered. It had been in existence for at least ten years during which time its members, know as "The Hundred Per Cent Gang" pilfered small amounts of goods from stores or factories so that the crimes often went undetected. Although the ring was acknowledged to be extensive, only six police officers were imprisoned. Most of the inquiry was concerned with establishing the guilt of certain police officers. One of the major recommendations was to give the Chief Constable the right to dismiss or punish police officers for dereliction of duty with right of appeal to the Police Commission.

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## *104 Commission to Inquire into the Recent Disturbances of and among the Prisoners at the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph*

Appointed on January 18, 1937 by Order in Council 220/460 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary.

**Commissioner:** Judge James Ernest Madden.

**Report:** Dated March 17, 1937. 33 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to investigate the conditions that led to a riot among inmates at the Guelph Reformatory on January 17, 1937. As well, the Commission was to inquire into the administration and management of the reformatory and the care and treatment of prisoners. The Commissioner recommended several changes including the replacement of dormitories with cell blocks, and the provision of mattresses, sheets and summer weight underwear to the inmates. It also recommended that education be compulsory for the younger inmates. In addition to several other practices that indicated laxness in the treatment of prisoners, Judge Madden expressed disapproval of the beauty of the grounds surrounding the reformatory - "Material beauty of grounds is not reformative, and certainly tends to make the place look inviting."

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## *105 Inquiry into the Financial Affairs of the Town of Collingwood*

Appointed on February 4, 1937 by Order in Council 221/51 under the *Municipal Act* on the recommendaton of the Honourable the Minister of Public Welfare, Municipal Affairs and Labour.

**Commissioner:** Wilfrid D. Roach, K.C.

**Report:** Dated March, 1937. 39 leaves, typescript. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, correspondence.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed after some members of the Collingwood Town Council objected to how other members of the Council, particularly the Finance Committee, were running the affairs of the town. As a result of conditions arising out of the Depression, Collingwood had lost most of its industries and unemployment was widespread. A serious relief situation existed and tax arrears had built up. The town dealt with the Depression conditions by cancelling tax arrears and allowing payments to be made "on an installment plan." The Commissioner, Wilfrid Roach, concluded that there was a deplorable failure to comply with the stated laws of the Province, particularly the *Municipal Act*. Several instances of specific hardship cases are described in detail in the report.

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## *106 Royal Commission on Transportation*

Appointed on August 26, 1937 by Order in Council 223/77 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Edgar Rodolphe Eugene Chevrier.

**Commissioners:** Clarence Richard Young, Edwin Roy Sayles.

**Report:** Dated December 23, 1938. xv, 293 p., diagrams. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, briefs, submissions.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to inquire into all aspects of the business of transporting freight and passengers by motor vehicle and its relation to other forms of transportation. The Commission looked particularly into the costs of maintaining roads and whether commercial transports were paying their fair share. To ensure this, it recommended a system of licence classifications and differential fees. The Commission also made several recommendations intended to bring some order into what was believed to be a state of chaos in the trucking industry.

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## *107 Commission re Homewood Sanitarium of Guelph, Ontario, Limited*

Appointed on March 18, 1938 by Order in Council 225/3 under the *Private Sanitaria Amendment Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Health.

**Commissioner:** F.H. Barlow, K.C.

**Report:** 1938. 13 leaves, typescript. Sessional Papers no. 43, 1939.

**Report Locations:** OTL.

**Historical Background:** This Commission grew out of complaints made by a former patient of the Homewood Sanitarium that he was detained there for over two years against his will. The patient, a Mr. McIntosh of Montreal, although originally a voluntary patient of the institution, found he was unable to leave when his wife refused to give her consent. It was the opinion of the Commissioners that the *Private Sanitaria Act* was not sufficient protection for a person who becomes

mentally ill and should be completely recast. Other recommendations were that private mental hospitals be brought under the control of the government; that legislation be passed providing sufficient safeguards to prevent any patient being detained in a private mental hospital at the will of relatives or others; that patients have access to independent medical and legal advice, and that regular inspections of private hospitals be made by the Ministry of Health.

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### *108 Royal Commission on the Operation of the Mental Hospitals Act*

Appointed on September 10, 1938 by Order in Council 226/191 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Health.

**Chair:** Clifford R. Magone.

**Commissioners:** Dr. William H. Avery, Lionel P. Conacher.

**Report:** Dated December 29, 1938. 84 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission arose out of complaints made against the Superintendent of the London Hospital, Dr. George Stevenson. The Commission was to look into these charges as well as the whole operation of the *Mental Hospitals Act* and the administration of mental hospitals throughout the province. The Commission made several recommendations: that magistrates be advised by at least one physician before sending subjects to mental hospitals for observation; that, with the consent of parents or guardians, sterilization of women mentally defectives be permitted; that different classes of mental patients be segregated from each other; that coroners' investigations of deaths at mental hospitals be more thoroughly carried out; that alcoholics no longer be treated in mental hospitals and that a Board of Review be established, consisting of lay persons as well as physicians and psychiatrists, to review the case of any patient whose detention was alleged to be unwarranted. On the whole, the Commission found mental hospitals to be "extremely well run", and that the charges made against Dr. Stevenson were substantially untrue.

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### *109 Royal Commission Inquiring into the Affairs of Abitibi Power and Paper Company Limited*

Appointed on November 1, 1940 by Order in Council 232/343 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** The Honourable Charles Patrick McTague, Supreme Court Justice.

**Commissioners:** Albert Edward Dyment, Sir James Dunn.

**Report:** Dated March 17, 1941. 20 p. Sessional Paper no. 50, 1941.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Proceedings.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to enquire into the affairs and financial and corporate structure of Abitibi Power and Paper Co. Ltd., with a view to recommending an equitable plan for solving the financial difficulties of the company. In 1932, Abitibi was unable to meet its financial obligations and went into receivership. Throughout the remainder of the 1930s the Company was run by the receiver, but by 1940 the mortgagee was ready to foreclose. The Commission concluded that the assets of the Company should not be liquidated and that, with the cooperation of the Government it could eventually show a reasonable rate of return. *The Abitibi Power and Paper Company Limited Moratorium Act* was passed in 1941 which stayed the mortgagee's right to foreclose with the understanding that the Company would be reorganized according to the plan set forth in this Royal Commission.

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### *110 Royal Commission re: Statements in the Toronto Globe and Mail of March 31, 1942 That "... Many Toronto Reliefees had Died From Malnutrition Due to the Inadequacy of the Past Relief Schedules."*

Appointed on April 1, 1942 by Order in Council 237/69 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Smirle Lawson (Supervising Coroner).

**Report:** April 17, 1942. 3 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Archives Holdings:** Correspondence.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed in response to a statement made in the Toronto *Globe and Mail* on March 31, 1942 by Lewis Duncan, a prominent member of the C.C.F. and Controller for the City of Toronto, to the effect that people on relief in Toronto had died from malnutrition because of inadequate food allowances. Dr. Lawson, the Commissioner and Coroner of the city, asked Duncan for names of the people who had died, and when he refused, Dr. Lawson stated he could not continue with the inquiry. Mr. Duncan urged that the terms of reference be extended to inquire into all aspects of unemployment relief. Dr. Lawson reiterated that the scope of the inquiry could not be broadened and since no definite evidence was presented, the statement made by Duncan could not be proved.

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## *111 Ontario Agricultural Commission of Inquiry*

Appointed on September 22, 1943 by Order in Council 241/330 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture.

**Chair:** Archibald Leitch.

**Commissioners:** Howard Craise, M.M. Robinson, W. Montgomery, Mrs. C. Holmes, Harry Scott, Roy Lick, Stewart Brown, W. Breckon, M.B. Cochran, Alex McKinney O. (Jr.), W.A. Dryden, James Henderson, Charles Boynton, W.L. Whyte, N.A. Fletcher, Floyd Griesbach, Harry Wilson, Harold Huffman, R.J. Scott, Grant Mitchell. M.C. Allen and Alex W. Pope were included temporarily to represent Northern Ontario. On January 31, 1944 W.L. Whyte resigned and was replaced on February 14, 1944 by Professor R.W. Graham. At the request of the Farm Women's Organizations an additional woman member was added to the commission and Mrs. W. H. Hamilton was appointed on December 31, 1943.

**Report:** Dated January 22, 1945. 76 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed as a result of a conference attended by 500 farm representatives in Toronto in September 1943. Several committees were established to look into all areas of concern to agriculture including farm credit, rural education, production, marketing and distributing of farm products, price spreads, trade practices, financing and labour problems. Recommendations called for increases in government subsidies to agriculture, assistance to young farmers, expansion of credit unions, the establishment of

composite high schools to serve rural areas, government assistance to build farm cottages for farm help and the establishment of a Soils Division in the Department of Agriculture to oversee soil conservation measures in the province.

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## *112 Royal Ontario Mining Commission*

Appointed on October 27, 1943 by Order in Council 242/84 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Mines.

**Chair:** Norman C. Urquhart.

**Commissioners:** Charles G. Williams (Vice-chair), Kenneth C. Gray, J. Roy Gordon, Robert J. Jowsey, Homer W. Sutcliffe, H. Chipman McCloskey, J. Henry Jessup.

**Report:** Dated September 6, 1944. 8 parts in 1 vol. (various paging).

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Briefs, memorandum.

**Historical Background:** By 1943, the Ontario mining industry was experiencing one of the worst crises in its history. Known mineral reserves were being rapidly exhausted while government policies of high taxation and unwillingness to finance exploration contributed to the problems. While the War stimulated the production of nickel and copper, gold mining experienced a severe setback. The Commission made several recommendations: that prospecting be encouraged and supported by government; that mining municipalities receive extra monies to meet their special needs; that a new *Securities Act* be enacted to prevent fraud and ensure that money paid by the public for securities finds its way into mining development; that the burden of taxation be reduced; and also, in the area of health, that miners in dust exposure occupations submit to chest x-ray examinations in order to detect early signs of tuberculosis.

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## *113 Inquiry into the Requirements of the Great Lakes Lumber and Shipping Ltd., Respecting its Saw Logs Supplies*

Appointed on November 23, 1943 by Order in Council 242/196A under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Lands and Forests.

**Commissioner:** Donald P. Guthrie.

**Report:** 1944. Report missing.

**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings only.

**Historical Background:** The report of this Commission is missing, therefore it is difficult to determine its findings and recommendations. The proceedings indicate that it spent a great deal of time looking into the lumber industry and the affairs of the Great Lakes Lumber and Shipping Ltd., particularly the operation of its sawmill at Fort William. (See Archives Summary, *Preliminary Inventory of Ontario Royal Commissions*, Record Group 18, Series B, p. 133).

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## *114 Royal Commission on the Safety of Public Buildings*

Appointed on June 27, 1944 by Order in Council 244/351 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Treasurer.

**Commissioner:** Judge Ian M. Macdonnell.

**Report:** Dated December 14, 1944. 51 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, general correspondence.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was prompted by a series of fires across Canada and the United States which resulted in a substantial loss of life. The most recent was a fire in Hamilton called the "Moose Hall fire" where, as a result of a combination of fire and panic, 12 people lost their lives. The Commission was instructed to examine all buildings where the public assembled and to report upon the statutes and municipal by-laws governing the erection, licencing and supervision of such premises. Judge Macdonnell found that, although the Province had adequate enabling legislation to ensure safety standards in public buildings, it had not been taken advantage of to a considerable extent. He recommended that a provincial act be passed setting minimum standards of safety and that it be enforced by the Province. He identified several of the chief causes of injury and loss of life including insufficient exits, lack of panic hardware, lack of fire extinguishers, inflammable decorations, unlighted exit signs, overcrowding, and the storage of combustible materials. The most prevalent cause of fire was careless smoking.

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## *115 Royal Commission on Education in Ontario*

Appointed on March 21, 1945 by Order in Council 247/327 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister and Minister of Education.

**Chair:** The Honourable Mr. Justice John Andrew Hope.

**Commissioners:** Marshall Archibald Campbell, A. Vance Chapman, William Henry Clarke, Charles Richard Conquergood, Edward Fawcett Henderson, Ruth S. Houck (Mrs. John E. Houck), Arthur Kelly, Blanche Marshall (Mrs. Robert J. Marshall), Norman McLeod, Dr. Ralph James Neelands, Helen Isabel New (Mrs. Ryland H. New), Joseph M. Pigott, Loftus Henry Reid, Charles Rupert Sanderson, Miss Helen Margaret Sheppard, Dr. Sidney Earle Smith, Henri Saint-Jacques, The Venerable Archdeacon W.A. Townshend, Dr. William L. Whitelock. Mr. Fred Molineux was also a member of the Commission but died before its work was completed.

**Report:** Dated December 15, 1950. xxiii, 933 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Bound memoranda and briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, briefs, memoranda, studies, correspondence, press clippings.

**Historical Background:** This was a broad and comprehensive investigation of the education system in Ontario. The Commission's terms of reference were to inquire into all schools under the jurisdiction of the Board of Education, the selection and training of teachers, and local school administrations. The Commission recommended a new emphasis on co-curricular activities and the importance of participation by pupils in group activities in order to better prepare them for the demands of everyday life. They felt that more choice should be introduced into the curriculum of high schools and that central schools be established to serve larger areas. The issue of separate school funding was discussed as well as the possibility of integrating teacher training into the university system.

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## *116 Royal Commission to Investigate Charges Made by Mr. Edward B. Jolliffe, K.C. in a Radio Address on May 24, 1945*

Appointed on May 25, 1945 by Order in Council 248/234 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General. Appointed to investigate charges that Premier George Drew had a secret police organization and to investigate activities of the Ontario Provincial Police.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice A.M. LeBel.

**Report:** Dated October 9, 1945. 62 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** The episode that led to the establishment of this Royal Commission was one of the more significant events in the early history of the C.C.F./N.D.P. in Ontario. In the provincial election of 1943, the C.C.F. returned 34 members and became the Official Opposition under Edward B. Jolliffe. Eleven days before the next provincial election, on June 4, 1945, Jolliffe went on CBC radio in Toronto and accused the Conservative Drew government of organizing a "Gestapo" style secret political police whose purpose was to "try and collect, by secret spying, material that Col. Drew wants to use to try and keep himself in power." Although the Royal Commission found that an Anti-Sabotage Branch of the Ontario Provincial Police did exist, and that one member, Constable Dempster, had collected damaging information on C.C.F. members in particular, Drew, it was believed, was unaware of its existence and did not make use of the material collected to further his own or his party's interests. Constable Dempster, however, was found by Commissioner LeBel to have acted highly improperly and was deserving of "unqualified condemnation." As a result of the controversy generated by his radio speech, Jolliffe and the C.C.F. suffered a severe setback in the election. The C.C.F. was reduced to 8 sitting members while the Conservatives returned 66 members.

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## *117 Ontario Research Commission*

Appointed on August 28, 1945 by Order in Council 249/111 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Dr. Robert C. Wallace.

**Commissioners:** E. Holt Gurney, Dr. R.K. Stratford, Dean C.R. Young, Dr. Sidney Smith, Dr. G.I. Christie, Dr. T.H. Hogg, Dr. W. Sherwood Fox, W.E. Phillips, H.M. Turner, Dr. C.E. Burke. Owing to the illness of Dr. Christie, W.R. Reek acted during his absence. By Order in Council June 25, 1946 E.T. Sterne was appointed to the commission.

**Report:** Interim report. Dated February 7, 1947. 152 p. Final report. Dated January 6, 1948. 66 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Interim and Final Reports, Appendices of Minutes of Meeting of the Advisory Committee on Agricultural Research.
**Archives Holdings:** Interim and Final Reports.

**Historical Background:** The war years brought about many new technical advances and, with the close of hostilities in August 1945, the opportunity arrived to direct this research towards expanding industry and developing Ontario's natural resources. The Commission set up several advisory committees consisting of experts representing different fields of research including agriculture, forestry, metallurgy, fisheries and wildlife, and industry. One of their main conclusions was that there was a dearth of research personnel in the province. This could be corrected by offering scholarships to universities to fund research projects and encourage graduate research; providing more funding for technical training, by encouraging extension research by industries and by the Provincial government coordinating research projects throughout the province and with the rest of the country. The work of the Commission was transferred to the Research Council of Ontario which was established under the *Research Council Act, 1948.*

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## *118 Ontario Royal Commission on Forestry*

Appointed on April 16, 1946 by Order in Council 252/16 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** Major General Howard Kennedy.

**Report:** Dated May 12, 1947. 196 p., illus., maps (5 in pocket). Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 49, 1947.

**Notes:** Glossary, 20 p., in pocket.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** This was an important and extensive survey of the forest resources in Ontario. The Commission staff travelled to sites throughout Ontario in a converted railway car, and surveyed northern tracts of land by air. The greatest impression made on the Commission was "the tremendous, almost incredible, waste resulting from single-purpose operations carried on in the past and still being carried on." The pulp and paper and sawmill industries were studied in detail and many recommendations were put forward to end wasteful and destructive practices. The *Forest Management Act, 1947* regulated timber cutting operations in the province by requiring the filing of master plans with the Minister of Lands and Forests. Other Acts applying to forest industries were also amended in 1947 to conform with many of the recommendations contained in the report.

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## *119 Ontario Royal Commission on Milk*

Appointed on October 1, 1946 by Order in Council 254/114 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Dalton C. Wells.

**Report:** Dated August 1, 1947. xv, 157, 205 p., illus., maps. Includes appendices. Sessional Paper no. 50, 1947.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Briefs.

**Historical Background:** This Royal Commission was appointed following a rise in the price of milk of 3¢ a quart in September 1946. It was asked to examine the producing, processing, distributing, transporting and marketing of milk as well as the financing, management, and grading practices within the industry. Many of the Commission's recommendations were incorporated into the *Milk Control Act, 1948* including: the separation of the administrative and judicial functions of the Milk Control Board, the establishment of marketing boards for milk producers, and the creation of regulations concerning the disposal of surplus milk. The Commissioner also recommended that the retail price of milk be competitive and not fixed by the Board and that municipalities be permitted to own and operate their own distribution plants.

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### *120 Royal Commission on the Charges Made by Provincial Constable J.E. Keays in a Document of Resignation Addressed to the Commissioner, Ontario Provincial Police, Toronto, Ontario, and Dated at Belleville, October 30th, 1948. This Document of Resignation Bears on its Face the Following Annotation: "Copy for the Attention of the Honourable Leslie Blackwell, Attorney General for Ontario."*

Appointed on January 6, 1949 by Order in Council 54/49 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice J. Keiller MacKay.

**Report:** Dated July 11, 1949. 35, 25 leaves, typescript. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This case involved a series of allegations made by Constable Keays against certain members of the government including the Attorney General for Ontario and the Crown Attorney for the County of Hastings and various members of the Ontario Provincial Police. The allegations concerned suppression of evidence, interference in investigations by the Crown Attorney and other instances of improper behaviour on the part of officials. Mr. Justice MacKay found most of these allegations to be false or unsupported by the evidence. Although he found Keays to be a highly competent police officer, his attitude towards his fellow members of the police force and the public was overbearing and conducive to causing dissension wherever he worked. He recommended that Keays be dismissed from the force.

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### *121 Inquiry into the Windsor Metropolitan General Hospital*

Appointed on April 8, 1949 by Order in Council 665/49 under the *Windsor Metropolitan General Hospital Inquiry Act, 1949* on the recommendation of the Honourable W.A. Goodfellow, Acting Minister of Health.

**Commissioner:** Judge Eric W. Cross.

**Report:** 1949. Report missing.

**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings and appendices only.

**Historical Background:** Apparently the charges that gave rise to the Commission centred around poor administrative practices on the part of the Superintendent, H.E. Atkin. Miss Mildred Maybee, the former Nursing Superintendent, had resigned after bringing these and other abuses to light. From the testimony, it is apparent that the hospital was poorly run and rife with discontent. Without the report, however, it is impossible to determine findings of the Commission. (Taken from the Ontario Archives summary, *Preliminary Inventory of Ontario Royal Commissions*, Record Group 18, Series B, p. 143).

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## *122 Commission Appointed to Inquire into and Report upon, and to Make Recommendations Regarding the Workmen's Compensation Act upon Subjects Other Than Detailed Administration*

Appointed on October 6, 1949 by Order in Council 1792/49 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Labour.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Wilfrid Daniel Roach.

**Report:** Dated May 31, 1950. 125 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to review the *Workmen's Compensation Act*. The last such review took place in 1932 (see Item no. 85). It investigated several areas in detail including serious and willful misconduct, levels of compensation, the addition of new industrial diseases (e.g. arthritis, lung cancer, hernia, silicosis), accident prevention and rehabilitation. Recommendations included reducing the waiting period to receive compensation from seven days to four and providing for the establishment of accidcnt prevention safety regulations for certain industries.

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## *123 Royal Commission on the East Windsor Health Association*

Appointed on March 17, 1952 by Order in Council 672/52 under the *Hospitals and Charitable Institutions Inquiries Act, 1952* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Gordon L. Fraser, Q.C.

**Report:** Dated 1952. 183 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** The East Windsor Hospital began as a two bedroom tuberculosis sanatorium in 1931. By 1950 it held nearly 500 beds and mainly looked after the chronically ill. Since its beginning, the hospital had been under the complete control of Dr. J.C. Morgan. Although his management of the hospital in its early days had been efficient, by the time this Commission was established the financial affairs of the hospital were in a mess - its bank account was heavily overdrawn and the hospital staff was torn by dissension. The Commissioner recommended that the old Hospital be completely reconstituted, that it be affiliated with the Metropolitan General Hospital and that there be more certainty in the amount of grants paid by various levels of government for the operation of the hospital in order to facilitate planning.

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## *124 Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into Conditions at the Don Jail, Toronto*

Appointed on September 9, 1952 by Order in Council 1971/52 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Judge Ian M. Macdonnell.

**Report:** Dated December 5, 1952. 65 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** Following the escape of four dangerous prisoners (known as the Boyd Gang) from the Don Jail on September 8, 1952 (the same prisoners had escaped from the jail only a year earlier), a loud public outcry erupted which led to the establishment of this Commission. Its terms of reference were to investigate all matters related to the escape, as well as security in general including the management of the jail, the adequacy of the building and staff and the treatment and discipline of the prisoners. The Commissioner found the jail to be grossly understaffed and overcrowded and consequently inadequate from the the standpoint of both security and accommodation. He thought prisoners, on the whole, were well treated and fairly disciplined. He recommended that a new governor be appointed with proven executive ability, that pay and working conditions for the staff be improved, that the number of staff be substantially increased and that new wings, to house dangerous prisoners and an expanded hospital, be built.

## *125 Committee of Inquiry into the Economics of the Gold Mining Industry*

Appointed on March 22, 1954. No indication of Order in Council or authorizing statute.

**Chair:** Prof. F.A. Knox.

**Commissioners:** Prof. E.E. Reilly, Prof. H.R. Rice.

**Report:** Dated 1955. 117 p., illus., maps.

**Notes:** Cover title: *Gold Mining in Ontario.*

**Report Locations:** OTL.

**Historical Background:** The gold mining industry was characterized by sharp fluctuations in its fortunes. Following periods of expansion before World War II and again in the late 1940s, the industry was experiencing another decline by the mid-1950s. This Commission was charged with determining why this latest reversal had come about, what its effects were on wages and labour and what the social policy should be in this situation. The report concluded that prospects for the gold mining industry remained good and therefore the governments of Canada and Ontario should continue to support the industry and the mining communities of Northern Ontario. This report examined, in particular, the problems of single industry communities and the obligation of government to ensure that its citizens not suffer unduly in the provision of services such as hospitals and schools relative to other more diversified and stable areas of the province.

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## *126 Inquiry into the Arrest and Detention of Robert Wright and Michael Griffin*

Appointed on October 27, 1954. No indication of Order in Council. Introductory material indicates the *Police Act* is authorizing statute.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Wilfrid Daniel Roach.

**Report:** Dated December 23, 1954. 35 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits, miscellaneous correspondence.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was sparked by a fracas that had occurred following a football game at Varsity Stadium during which a University of Toronto policeman collapsed and died. Wright and Griffin were arrested because of their involvement in the incident. During their arrest and detention, they claimed, they were severely beaten, denied the right to consult counsel, and were detained for an unnecessary length of time. Mr. Justice Roach found that unnecessary violence was used against Wright and agreed with other accusations. Roach expressed much concern that members of the Toronto police force appeared unaware of many of the basic rights of prisoners, particularly their right to consult counsel.

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## *127 Royal Commission re Individual Dump Truck Owners Association and International Brotherhood of Teamsters*

Appointed on February 6, 1958 by Order in Council 381/58 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Wilfrid Daniel Roach.

**Report:** Dated September 30, 1958. 105, xx leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry involved an attempt by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to unionize independent dump truck owners who were hauling gravel and crushed stone to the many building and road construction sites in the Toronto area. Because of the oversupply of dump trucks in the area, gravel pit owners were able to reduce their haulage rates and the truck owners were finding it increasingly difficult to make a living. In the fall of 1956, truck owners, encouraged by the Teamsters struck several of the pits in the area. In the process there were allegations that violence and intimidation were used to encourage some of the owners to join up. The Commission established to investigate these incidents found that the truck owners, as employers and potential employers, did not constitute an employee group to which the powers and privileges contained in the *Labour Relations Act* could apply, therefore it was improper for the Teamsters to try to organize them. The *Labour Relations Act*, Justice Roach stressed, is confined to the field of labour-management relations and should so remain.

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## *128 The Committee Appointed to Inquire into and Report upon the Fluoridation of Municipal Water Supplies*

Appointed on March 17, 1959 by Order in Council 835/59 and amended on February 11, 1960 by Order in Council 693/60, both under the *Public Inquiries Act*, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Mr. Justice Kenneth Gibson Morden.

**Commissioners:** Dr. George Edward Hall, Mrs. Egmont L. Frankel, Mrs. Cameron McKenzie. Mrs. McKenzie replaced Mrs. Frankel by the appointment of February 11, 1960.

**Report:** Dated January 31, 1961. iii, 177 p. Includes appendices and bibliography.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Press release.

**Historical Background:** By 1959, the incidence of tooth decay was of such a magnitude (80% of elementary school children had active tooth decay) that the writers of this report regarded it as one of society's major health problems. The addition of fluoride into water systems, a practice that had been going on in several Ontario communities up to this time, was found to significantly reduce the incidence of dental caries. However, a decision by the Supreme Court in 1957 ruled that Metropolitan Toronto, under the existing legislation, lacked the power to enact a by-law providing for the fluoridation of its water supply. This meant that no municipality in Ontario could legally fluoridate its water supply. This Commission was appointed to inquire into all matters in any way pertaining to the fluoridation of public water supplies with a view to enacting legislation. The main topics addressed by the Committee were the effectiveness of fluorides in reducing caries, the effects of fluorides on the body, and the rights of the individual and fluoridation. This was a heated issue with both proponents and opponents vigorously supporting their views. In all, 91 briefs were received by the Committee. It concluded that fluorides were not harmful to the body, that they helped significantly in reducing cavities and that the addition of fluoride to water supplies did not impinge upon the civil rights of individuals. Most of the Committee's recommendations were incorporated in Bill 98, *An Act Respecting the Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies, 1960-61*.

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## *129 Inquiry into Certain Financial Affairs of the Corporation of the Township of York Related to Sub-divisions of Land, Zoning By-laws and the Sales of Municipal Lands Owned by the Said Corporation of the Said Township of York and Matters Connected Therewith*

Appointed on March 18, 1959 by Order in Council 836/59 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Commissioner:** Judge Joseph A. Sweet.

**Report:** Dated April 28, 1960. 266, 17 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, correspondence, copies of land deeds.

**Historical Background:** This was a major inquiry into municipal corruption in the Township of York that was prompted by a *Toronto Star* newspaper column written by Pierre Berton. Charges were made that township officials accepted bribes in return for the issuance of building permits, that bidding procedures benefitted certain purchasers over others and that municipal land was often sold below true market value. Judge Sweet found that, commencing in 1953, there were shortcomings and deficiencies in the local government of the Township and, as a result, it had suffered grievous financial loss. While reconfirming the importance of the preservation of local autonomy, Judge Sweet recommended that legislation be drafted requiring municipal governments to make full disclosure when requested to do so by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and that an independent body be established and empowered to determine whether the financial affairs of a municipality were being adversely affected.

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## *130 Royal Commission to Inquire into the Financial Affairs of the Corporation of the City of Belleville*

Appointed on July 28, 1959 by Order in Council 260/59 under the *Municipal Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Commissioner:** Judge A. R. Wilmott.

**Report:** Dated October 31, 1959. 47 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL (microfiche only), OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was established to report upon the conduct of city officials of Belleville in their relations with the Belleville Senior A hockey team. Apparently the City Manager, who was also the manager of the hockey team, had arranged to pay the hockey players a salary out of city revenue. Much evidence was given at the inquiry concerning the organization of senior hockey.

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## *131 Royal Commission Appointed February 23, 1960, to Investigate Charges Relating to the Purchase of Lands in the City of Sarnia by the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario From Dimensional Investments Limited*

Appointed on February 23, 1960 by Order in Council 836/60 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. George A. McGillivray.

**Report:** Dated November 1, 1960. 133 leaves, typescript.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Royal Commission on Sarnia Indian Lands.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Appendices to the Report in a separate volume.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This inquiry was instituted following allegations made in the Legislature arising out of a transaction between Ontario Hydro and Dimensional Investments Limited for the sale of land which had been part of the Sarnia Indian Reserve. When it was learned that Hydro paid over $5,000 an acre more than Dimensional had paid the Indian band for the same land only weeks before, accusations were made about the incompetence of Hydro officials in purchasing the land and Tory influence in the deal. The Department of Indian Affairs was also accused of allowing Indian lands to be sold at prices far below their value and, therefore, failing to protect the interest of Indians of the Sarnia band. Mr. Justice MacGillivray was unable to find any grounds for the various charges made against Hydro or its officials or any substantiation of allegations of impropriety, negligence or of careless judgement on the part of any of the parties. The testimony provides some interesting insights into land transactions with Indian bands.

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## *132 The Royal Commission on Industrial Safety*

Appointed on April 7, 1960 by Order in Council 1552/60 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Judge P.J. McAndrew.

**Commissioners:** J. Danvers Bateman, G. Russell Harvey.

**Report:** Dated October 16, 1961. 87 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL (typescript), OTAR (printed).
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits, correspondence, memos, photographs.

**Historical Background:** Much of the impetus for this Royal Commission arose out of an accident that occurred in a tunnel during the construction of the Don Valley Parkway in March 1960 in which five construction workers died. The scope of the Commission, however, included the consideration of all safety regulations relating to industry in Ontario. The Commission found that safety regulations were haphazard and inconsistent across the province. It therefore recommended the establishment of an Ontario Safety Council to coordinate accident prevention work. The Commission found much of the existing legislation to be archaic and outmoded and recommended that it be amended or replaced. A new *Construction Safety Act* was proposed to replace the almost unknown and unenforced *Building Trades Protection Act*. Other recommendations included the establishment of management/labour safety committees in factories, the licencing of contractors and the promotion of safety education.

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## *133 Royal Commission re Purchase of Parts of Lot 23 in the Township of Niagara by the Niagara Parks Commission and the Subsequent Resale to Mr. A.A. Schmon and Purchase by Mr. Charles Daley*

Appointed on April 11, 1960 by Order in Council 1553/60 under the Public Inquiries Act on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** Judge Ian McLean Macdonnell.

**Report:** 1960. Report missing.

**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits only.

**Historical Background:** Mr. Daley was an MPP and Chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission (N.P.C.) when he purchased a plot of land from Mr. Schmon who had three years earlier purchased it from the N.P.C. In December 1959, the Toronto newspapers questioned the operation of the N.P.C., focussing on this transaction. The Select Committee on Privileges and Elections was asked to investigate the matter and when it could not reach an agreement, this Royal Commission was appointed. Although the report of this Commission is missing, the *Debates* (Hansard) suggest that one of its recommendations was that the government be required to advertise any land it has for sale so that all interested parties have the opportunity to bid on it ensuring the greatest possible return for the government.

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## *134 The Royal Commission on Labour-Management Relations in the Construction Industry*

Appointed on June 27, 1961 by Order in Council 2622/61 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** H. Carl Goldenberg.

**Report:** Dated March 12, 1962. xi, 79 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Submissions, transcripts, briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, briefs, studies, correspondence.

**Historical Background:** This Commission investigated residential, commercial and engineering construction in Ontario. Commissioner Goldenberg found that, in general, the construction industry was highly unstable and conducive to conflict and therefore in need of remedial measures. He recommended significant changes to the *Labour Relations Act* concerning such matters as certification of unions, collective agreements, multiple trades bargaining and jurisdictional disputes. Other recommendations intended to better protect construction workers dealt with the *Industrial Standards Act*, minimum wages and maximum hours, vacation with pay and registration of contractors.

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## *135 Commission Appointed under the Public Inquiries Act by Letters Patent Dated December 11, 1961 (popularly known as the Commission on Crime in Ontario)*

Appointed on December 11, 1961 by Order in Council 4888/61 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Wilfrid D. Roach.

**Report:** Dated March 15, 1963. 383, 41 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts of proceedings (incomplete).
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits, general files, reference material, accounting records.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed after the Leader of the Opposition, John Wintermeyer, claimed in a speech to the Legislature that organized gambling was widespread in Ontario. This, he said, was owing to the indiscriminate issuance of charters incorporating social clubs which acted as fronts for gambling ventures, and because certain senior officials of the Attorney General's office had been corrupted by underworld crime figures, aiding them in their illegal activities. This Commission was directed to inquire into and report on these matters as well as the extent of crime in Ontario and the sufficiency of the law enforcement agencies to deal with it. After an extensive investigation into social clubs, major crime figures in Ontario, bribery, gambling and pinball operations, Commissioner Roach issued his findings. He concluded that although organized gambling was widespread in the province, neither syndicated crime nor the mafia was present to any large extent. Neither did he find evidence of improper relations between senior officials of the Attorney General's office and any persons, or of any improper termination of investigations or suppression of evidence. Recommendations suggested greater police coordination throughout the province, replacement of small municipal forces by the Ontario Provincial Police and that the Commissioner of the O.P.P. be independent of the Attorney General's Department.

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## *136 The Royal Commission of Inquiry Respecting the Arrest and Detention of Rabbi Norbert Leiner by the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force*

Appointed on February 1, 1962 by Order in Council 452/62 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Dalton C. Wells, Supreme Court Justice.

**Report:** Dated December 1962. 99 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This case involved allegations made by Rabbi Leiner that police officers used obscene and abusive language against him, had arrested him illegally and had physically maltreated him during his detention. The incident began when the Rabbi refused to cooperate with the police concerning an investigation because it would have involved breaking the laws of the Sabbath. Mr. Justice Wells, for the most part, upheld the Rabbi's allegations and recommended that the Metropolitan Police Force make it clear to all its members that police brutality would not be tolerated. On the other hand he emphasized that citizens have a moral obligation to cooperate with the police. He also recognized the need for police officers to be more aware of "any racial or religious customs which may require special tact" and suggested that a voluntary board of leading citizens be established to act as an advisory group to the police on community relations.

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## *137 The Ontario Committee on Taxation*

Appointed on February 26, 1963 by Order in Council 557/63 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Lancelot J. Smith.

**Commissioners:** Eric Hardy, Dr. R. Craig McIvor, Carl Pollock, R. Bredin Stapells.

**Report:** Dated August 30, 1967. Vol. 1. *Approach, Background and Conclusions.* xxiv, 343 p. Includes appendices. Vol 2. *The Local Revenue System.* xv, 550 p., map. Vol. 3. *The Provincial Revenue System.* xv, 473 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Submissions, studies, briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** This was the most extensive inquiry into the taxation and revenue system of the Province of Ontario and its municipalities and school boards undertaken to date. Over four years in the making, its 350 recommendations touched on all aspects of the tax and revenue system. Some areas discussed

include: property taxes and assessments, grants to municipalities, municipal debt, personal income tax, death and gift taxes, and the financing of hospital and medical care. A significant recommendation was that the provincial government establish a comprehensive system of regional governments throughout the province. The report includes a good summary of the history of local government in Ontario and lists reasons supporting the establishment of regional governments. The report of the Select Committee of the Legislature appointed to review these recommendations was released in September 1961. It disagreed with the Committee in several areas, particularly the recommendation that called for the removal of the retail sales tax exemption for books, magazines, periodicals and school supplies as well as the recommendation that property taxes be reduced.

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## *138 The Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto*

Appointed on June 20, 1963 by Order in Council 1864/63 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** H. Carl Goldenberg.

**Report:** Dated June 10, 1965. xv, 213 p., maps.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Submissions and comments, and one reaction to the Commission's report.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, briefs and general files.

**Historical Background:** This was the first major review of the Metropolitan system of local government for Toronto since its inception in 1953. The first decade of Metropolitan government was mainly occupied with providing physical services (roads, sewers, water supply) which had been delayed by the Depression and then the Second World War. This report paid particular attention to the provision of social services - education, housing, welfare and recreation. Its major recommendation was that the 13 area municipalities which then made up Metropolitan Toronto be consolidated to form four cities. In 1966, Bill 81, *An Act to Amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act* was passed consolidating the area municipalities into 6 boroughs - East York, Etobicoke, North York, Scarborough, York and the City of Toronto.

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## *139 Medical Services Insurance Committee*

Appointed on August 22, 1963 by Order in Council 2541/63 and amended on October 8, 1964 by Order in Council 3278/64, both under the *Public Inquiries Act*, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Dr. J. Gerald Hagey.

**Commissioners:** Mrs. Jean O. Aylen, Dr. William Butt, Miss Helen Carpenter, Dalton J. Caswell, A. Roy Coulter, Dr. Robert Galloway, Dr. John Hamilton, Miss Helen McArthur, W.S. Major, P.J. Mulrooney, Carman A. Naylor, Miss Alma Reid, Harry Simon, J.L. Whitney. Miss Reid replaced Miss Carpenter by the appointment of October 8, 1964.

**Report:** Dated December 18, 1964. ii, 71 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Briefs.

**Historical Background:** With the establishment of Hospital Insurance in 1959 in Ontario, the stage was set for the extension of coverage to other health care services. This committee was appointed to examine all matters related to Bill 163, which was passed in the 1963 session of the Legislature but not enacted, concerned with universal medical service insurance to cover physicians' services. It recommended that medical insurance be available to all residents of Ontario but continue to be provided by private carriers. Insurance was to be automatically renewed regardless of age, health or other circumstances and maximum subscription rates were set. Participation in the program was not to be compulsory, either for physicians or patients. The *Medical Services Insurance Act, 1965* generally adopted the recommendations of the Committee. Dissenting opinion within the Committee by Harry Simon was based on the broad principle of private versus government sponsored insurance.

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## *140 Royal Commission on Compulsory Arbitration in Disputes Affecting Hospitals and Their Employees*

Appointed on October 31, 1963 by Order in Council 3398/63 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Labour.

**Chair:** Judge Colin E. Bennett.

**Commissioners:** Robert V. Hicks, Q.C., Harry Simon.

**Report:** Dated June 22, 1964. 62 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Brief.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed in response to a strike at the Trenton Memorial Hospital, the second hospital strike to have occurred in the province up to this time. Fears that such strikes could endanger the lives of patients gave rise to the suggestion that compulsory arbitration might be the best way to deal with them. Most of the submissions presented to the Commission were opposed to the idea of compulsory arbitration maintaining that "free and unfettered collective bargaining is the best method of settling the disputes between Labour and Management." Nevertheless, the Commission recommended a compromise - when patient care becomes adversely affected compulsory arbitration be instituted after a lengthy period of negotiation. This recommendation was not supported by Harry Simon, one of the Commissioners, who believed that compulsory arbitration was not a desirable option in any event. No immediate legislation calling for compulsory arbitration for hospitals was enacted by the province.

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## *141 Royal Commission Inquiry into Civil Rights*

Appointed on May 21, 1964 by Order in Council 1619/64 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice James C. McRuer.

**Report:** Report number 1. Dated February 7, 1968. vols. 1-3. lix, 1331 p. Report number 2. Dated September 15, 1969. vol. 4. xxiii, 1332-1733 p. Report number 3. Dated February 22, 1971. vol. 5. xxvi, 1735-2281 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts of hearings, index to briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** This massive inquiry into the civil rights of Ontario citizens took seven years to complete. The report concentrated on five specific areas, including the exercise and control of statutory powers, the administration of justice, the exercise of statutory powers of broad application, identification of general safeguards of citizens' rights then in force and examination of boards and commissions established under the Statutes of Ontario. Several substantial Acts, which addressed 500 of the 549 recommendations, resulted from the Commission. These included: *The Exploration Act, 1968-69*, *The Statutory Powers Procedure*

*Act, 1971*, *The Public Inquiries Act*, 1971, and *The Civil Rights Statute Law Amendment Act, 1971*.

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## *142 The Royal Commission to Investigate Trading in the Shares of Windfall Oils and Mines Limited*

Appointed on August 13, 1964 by Order in Council 2583/64 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Arthur Kelly.

**Report:** Dated September 24, 1965. xviii, 177 p., diagrams, maps. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** Windfall Oil and Mines Limited was a mining and explorations company owned by George and Viola MacMillan operating in Timmins, Ontario in 1964. Wild fluctuations in the price of Windfall shares that summer prompted the establishment of this Royal Commission as well as an investigation by the Ontario Securities Commission. The Royal Commission found that, because of rumours deliberately started by the MacMillans, share prices in the company rose from $ .60 on July 6th to a peak of $ 5.50 on July 21st. The results of the inquiry brought about significant changes in trading practices on the Toronto Stock Exchange. These dealt with the powers and composition of the Ontario Securities Commission, tighter regulation of stockbrokers through licencing and development of regulations pertaining to insider trading. Most of the recommendations and observations of this Commission were addressed by the *Securities Act* passed in 1966.

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## *143 The FAME Inquiry in Respect of the Affairs of Farmers' Allied Meat Enterprises Co-operatives Limited*

Appointed on March 9, 1965 by Order in Council 852/65 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Campbell Grant.

**Report:** Dated August 19, 1965. 114 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** The failure of the Farmers' Allied Meat Enterprises Co-operatives Limited, or FAME, in 1964 was of great concern to the co-operative movement in Ontario and throughout Canada. FAME was organized in 1960 to combat the monopolistic tendencies of the meat-packing industry in Ontario. However, by 1964 it found itself in serious financial difficulties. The Commission found the reasons for FAME's failure were "a complete bankruptcy of business ability" and a lack of communication between the Board of Directors, especially its president, and the membership of the co-operative. The Commissioner concluded that while farm organizations were not to be deterred from establishing livestock co-operatives, "private enterprise was also essential to provide adequate markets for farmers' products. It would be a great mistake to allow co-operatives a monopolistic grip on such industry."

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## *144 Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Failure of Atlantic Acceptance Corporation, Limited*

Appointed on August 12, 1965 by Order in Council 2961/65 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Samuel H.S. Hughes.

**Report:** Dated September 12, 1969. Vols. 1-3. xviii, 1739 p., illus., portraits. Vol. 4. xiv, 1006 p., tables and appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Newspaper clippings.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** In June 1965, having shown no previous sign of instability, Atlantic Acceptance Corporation (a finance company headquartered in Oakville) defaulted on what should have been a routine loan obligation. At the time of its collapse, Atlantic Acceptance was the sixth largest finance company in Canada. The Hughes Commission found that the primary reason for the company's failure was the willingness of the lenders to "roll over" the indebtedness as it became due. The Commissioner's major recommendation was that all finance companies achieve a state of total liquidity by maintaining cash and unused bank credit equivalent to short term debt maturing at any time.

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## *145 The Royal Commission in the Matter of the Workmen's Compensation Act*

Appointed on June 16, 1966 by Order in Council 2497/66 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Labour.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice George A. McGillivray.

**Report:** Dated September 15, 1967. xx, 217 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts of hearings, exhibits, index to exhibits, submissions, briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** Since its enactment in 1914, the *Workmen's Compensation Act* has undergone several periodic reviews. This review was undertaken as a result of the passage of the *Canada Pensions Act*, as well as a proliferation of other welfare measures. The report considered several issues including claims adjudication and the investigation of accidents, the composition of the Workmen's Compensation Board; the right of a claimant to choose his own doctor, accident prevention measures as well as physical and vocational rehabilitation. One of its recommendations was to consider the amounts payable under the *Old Age Security Act* and Canada Pension Plan when awarding compensation. The Commission also suggested that joint safety committees be established at plant level and that more research into industrial diseases be undertaken. Many of the 41 recommendations were included in Bill 150, *An Act to Amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1968*.

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## *146 Committee on the Healing Arts*

Appointed on July 14, 1966 by Order in Council 3038/66 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Ian R. Dowie.

**Commissioners:** Prof. Horace Krever, Prof. M.C. Urquhart.

**Report:** Dated February 20, 1970. Vol. 1. xxi, 204 p. Vol. 2. xvii, 536 p. Vol. 3. xxi, 204 p. Index 33 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts of proceedings, submissions, studies, briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** Prompted by the federal Royal Commission on Health Services chaired by Emmett Hall, the Commission was mainly concerned with the educational and regulatory arrangements made in relation to 50 health disciplines. It investigated the structure of the health industry, the efficiency and coordination of health services and the steps that should be taken to ensure a sound and integrated health industry. The Commission received briefs from 101 organizations and 136 hearings were held producing 9,018 pages of verbatim transcripts. Some of the subjects covered include health care resources, dentists and dental care personnel, nurses, pharmacists, optometrists, mental health personnel, chiropody, medical laboratories, chiropractors, naturopaths, group practice, health centres and last, but not least, the general physician. It issued 354 recommendations touching on every aspect of the inquiry.

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## *147 Royal Commission Inquiry into Labour Disputes*

Appointed on August 18, 1966 by Order in Council 3463/66 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Ivan C. Rand.

**Report:** Dated August 1, 1968. xxv, 263 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts of hearings, briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed following a strike at a small industrial firm in Peterborough. As a result of ignoring an injunction limiting the number of picketers, twenty-six people were arrested and the event became a major issue in the 1967 provincial election. The Royal Commission was primarily concerned with the use of strikes as a method of settling disputes. The recommendations put forward by Justice Rand were designed to introduce a greater degree of organization into the relations between labour and management. Justice Rand condemned the situation where one side (usually management) was granted injunctions while the other side (usually labour) was not present in court. He also recommended that unions be constituted as legal entities so that they could be sued in Court. His major recommendation was for the formation of an "Industrial

Tribunal" based on an Australian model, which would be empowered to arbitrate and settle strikes.

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## *148 The Royal Commission to Investigate Allegations Relating to Coroners' Inquests*

Appointed on April 13, 1967 by Order in Council 1456/67 and amended on May 9, 1967 by Order in Council 1864/67 both under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice William D. Parker.

**Report:** Dated 1968. xiii, 132 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** *Report on the Report of the Royal Commission to Investigate Allegations Relating to Coroners' Inquests*, by Morton Shulman (February, 1968).
**Archives Holdings:** Exhibits, background files.

**Historical Background:** In April 1967, Dr. Morton Shulman was fired as Chief Coroner for the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto, a post he had held since March 7, 1963. Following his release from office he made statements reported in the press alleging that the Government of Ontario or certain senior civil servants had acted unlawfully or improperly by suppressing investigations and inquests, by interfering with investigations and inquests, and by suppressing evidence. Because of the seriousness of these allegations this Commission was appointed. After hearing evidence with regard to individual instances of improper conduct raised by Dr. Shulman, Justice Parker found that Dr. Shulman was unable to support any of his claims. In the conclusion to his report, Mr. Justice Parker stated: "It may be that some of Dr. Shulman's remarks were made in anger, others for their political effect. This may explain them, but not excuse them."

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## *149 Committee Appointed to Inquire into and Report upon the Pollution of Air, Soil, and Water in the Township of Dunn, Moulton, and Sherbrooke, Haldimand County*

Appointed on November 6, 1967 by Order in Council 4729/67 and amended on January 11, 1968 by Order in Council 172/68, both under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Health.

**Chair:** Dr. George Edward Hall.

**Commissioners:** Alex McKinney, Dr. C.J. MacKenzie, Dr. W.C. Winegard. W.C. Winegard replaced C.J. MacKenzie by the appointment of January 11, 1968.

**Report:** Dated September 25, 1968. xx, 355 p., illus., maps. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** Following the broadcast of a CBC film entitled "Air of Death" which dealt with the problem of pollution in the Dunnville area, the public demanded that steps be taken to rectify the situation. Subsequently, this Commission was appointed to inquire into the effects of pollution in the area. Most of the pollution originated with two industrial plants which emitted large quantities of fluoride and sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere. The inquiry concluded that there was a definite relationship between the sharp increase in fluoride emissions and the increase in vegetation damage and crippling effects on some farm animals. Nevertheless, it found that although the amount of fluoride and sulphur dioxide pollution was high, it was within a normal range and not dangerous. The Commission stated, however, that the Government of Ontario "needed to do more to make pollution control an effective and integrated reality." This case was one of first tests of the *Air Pollution Control Act, 1967.*

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## *150 Inquiry re Magistrate Frederick J. Bannon and Magistrate George W. Gardhouse*

Appointed on June 26, 1968 by Orders in Council 2593/68 and 2594/68 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

Commissioner: The Honourable Mr. Justice Campbell Grant.

**Report:** Dated September 12, 1968. xi, 69 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** The Commission was called to inquire into the behaviour of Magistrate Bannon and his association with a known criminal named Alexander Vincent. The Commission found that Bannon was accepting money from Vincent, which Vincent had received from persons expecting to come to court on certain charges. In return for this money Bannon would bring about decisions favourable

to the persons charged. Much of the evidence available to the hearing was obtained by Metropolitan Toronto Police wiretaps. The report deals at length with the admissability of this type of evidence but made no recommendations regarding statute regulation of such evidence. In the case of Bannon, the inquiry found he "was guilty of such gross behaviour in his office of magistrate to render himself totally unfit therefor." In the case of Gardhouse, although he was approached by Vincent seeking favours, the Commission found that he never succumbed to the requests.

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## *151 Inquiry re Provincial Judge Lucien Coe Kurata*

Appointed on February 6, 1969 by Order in Council 665/69 under the Provincial Courts Act on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Donald A. Keith.

**Report:** Dated April 24, 1969. xiv, 140 p. Includes appendices. (xiii, 221 leaves, typescript. Includes appendices).

**Report Locations:** OTL printed and typescript, OTAR printed.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to inquire into the circumstances related to the misbehaviour of Judge Kurata. The Judge challenged the propriety of the inquiry and demanded that the he be charged in ordinary criminal court. The provisions of the *Provincial Courts Act, 1968*, however, were clear on this matter. A private inquiry before the newly-formed Judicial Council was held first, and then, on its recommendation, this public inquiry was established. It concluded that the accusations against Judge Kurata (that he had attempted to commit suicide and had or attempted to have illicit relationships with a prostitute and a policewoman in his chambers) were substantially true and, therefore, he was unfit to serve as a judge and should be removed from office.

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## *152 The Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Use of Pesticides and the Death of Waterfowl on Toronto Island*

Appointed on September 25, 1969 by Order in Council 3745/69 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Health.

**Commissioner:** Prof. Martin H. Edwards

**Notes:** Cover title: *Did Pesticides Kill Ducks on Toronto Island?*

**Report:** Dated February 25, 1970. 24 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** In the summer of 1969 a public outcry erupted over the alleged spraying of diazinon on Toronto Island and the subsequent death of several waterfowl. The controversy pitted newly-formed anti-pollution groups such as Pollution Probe and G.A.S.P. (Group Action to Stop Pollution) against the Toronto Parks Department. This Commission was established to investigate this accusation. In the end, the Commission found that diazinon had not been used in the spraying operation in question and that no waterfowl had died of diazinon poisoning between April 1 and August 1, 1969 on the Island. It noted, however, that "only human beings and bees appear to be protected significantly by law against injury or death from direct or indirect unintentional poisoning by pesticides." It recommended, therefore, the passing of an Environmental Quality Act for the protection of the environment. Other recommendations dealt with making government bodies publicly accountable in their use of substances that cause harm to humans or animals and the environment generally.

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## *153 Commission of Inquiry re Ontario Provincial Police*

Appointed on July 28, 1970 by Order in Council 2361/70 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Campbell Grant.

**Report:** Dated December 15, 1970. x, 118 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established to inquire into allegations made in the Ontario Legislature by Dr. Morton Shulman (NDP, High Park) about improper relationships between senior officials of the Ontario Provincial Police and Clinton Duke, a Burlington businessman who had a criminal record and was known to associate with members of the criminal underworld. The inquiry found that most of the allegations made by Dr. Shulman were based on rumour and that no evidence indicated that Duke received special treatment because of his

friendship with some members of the force. Commissioner Grant recommended that officers be taught a code of police ethics to avoid embarrassing incidents such as this in the future.

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## *154 Royal Commission on Book Publishing*

Appointed on December 23, 1970 by Order in Council 3991/70 and amended on November 18, 1971 by Order in Council 3534/71, both under the *Public Inquiries Act*, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Chair:** Richard Rohmer, Q.C.

**Commissioners:** Dalton Camp, Marsh Jeanneret.

**Report:** First interim report. Dated March 23, 1971. Second interim report. Dated June 8, 1971. Third interim report. Dated August 20, 1971. Final report. *Canadian Publishers and Canadian Publishing*, dated December 1, 1972. 371 p. Includes interim reports and appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Background papers, transcripts, briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was a direct result of the upsurge in nationalist feeling that accompanied Canada's Centennial celebrations in 1967. It was appointed to examine the publishing industry in Ontario and throughout Canada, its contribution to the cultural life and education of the people, and the consequences of the substantial foreign ownership and control of publishing firms in the country. The Commission felt that if efforts were not made to bolster the book publishing industry it would soon disappear. To this end it made 70 recommendations which cut a broad swath across the industry addressing such matters as the obligation to nurture a Canadian identity, marketing, education and government publishing and copyright law. It also recommended creating an Ontario Book Publishing Board which would act as an interface between authors, publishers, manufacturers, booksellers and librarians and the public. Another recommendation was that the sale to foreigners of book publishing firms or branches in Ontario not be permitted and that a program of grants be instituted to assist Canadian writing, graphics design and illustration, and Ontario or Canadian-produced learning materials.

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## *155 Commission of Inquiry into Certain Matters Relating to and Arising from the Report of Professor Leonard Gertler Dated June, 1968, Entitled "Niagara Escarpment Study -- Conservation and Recreation Report."*

Appointed on May 21, 1971 by Order in Council 1552/71 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** His Honour Chief Judge Colin E. Bennett.

**Report:** Dated September 8, 1971. 101 leaves, typescript. Includes appendices.

**Notes:** Also popularly known as the Royal Commission Inquiry into Niagara Escarpment Land Transactions.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** Professor Gertler was commissioned by the Government of Ontario to do a study of the Niagara Escarpment. His confidential report, which was submitted to the government in June 1968, recommended the acquisition of certain lands in the Escarpment by the Province. An abridged version of the report was made public in December 1969. In May 1971 questions in the Legislature imputed that Caledon Mountain Estates Ltd. had improperly received knowledge of the Gertler Report which enabled the company to sell land it had recently acquired on the Forks of the Credit River to the government for a very sizable profit. This Commission formed to investigate the matter found that there was no improper use or disclosure of the Gertler Report by any one (except in the case of a *Globe and Mail* reporter who had acquired the report illegally), that the directors of Caledon Mountain Estates Limited had no knowledge at any time of the contents of the confidential report and that although there was laxness and negligence in the handling of the report, there was no deliberate wrongdoing. It was suggested that the Government of Ontario issue a directive or regulation to govern the handling of secret and confidential documents.

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## *156 Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into the Egg Industry in Ontario*

Appointed on September 19, 1971 by Order in Council 2852/71 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Commissioner:** Judge James Frederick William Ross.

**Report:** Dated April 5, 1972. x, 105 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to "examine the marketing and distribution of shell and processed eggs with reference to quotas, negotiability and attachment to facilities, distribution through grading stations, pricing and pooling policies." Sixteen recommendations were made, designed to stabilize the marketing and distribution of eggs in Ontario, including that the Ontario Egg and Fowl Producers Marketing Board institute a marketing program with sales quotas; initial sales quotas be allocated according to a combination of recent egg sales of producers and the capacity of facilities; that a system of weekly minimum prices be guaranteed to egg producers; that a legal limit be placed on the volume of eggs any individual or corporation produces and, finally, that contracts between egg producers and supply companies be standarized and simplified.

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## *157 The Royal Commission of Inquiry in Relation to the Conduct of the Public and the Metropolitan Toronto Police Force*

Appointed on December 1, 1971 by Order in Council 3687/71 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** Judge Ilvio A. Vannini.

**Report:** Dated June 5, 1972. 181 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** The response by certain segments of the population to Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin's visit to Canada in October 1971 was particularly intense and hostile. During his visit to the Ontario Science Centre in Toronto, on the evening of Oct. 25, the police, fearing an assassination attempt (Kosygin had been assaulted earlier during his visit to Ottawa) showed up in force to control the large crowd of demonstrators expected. The crowd eventually numbered from 3-4,000 in front of the Science Centre, and over 1,000 policeman, including 20 mounted officers, were allotted to the area. As the evening wore on, the crowd became increasingly excited and agitated and eventually broke through the ring of officers lined up in front of them. In response, the mounted officers rode into the crowd trampling some and striking others with riding crops. Eventually 15 people

were arrested and 13 sustained injuries ranging from minor to severe. The violent and extreme measures used to subdue the crowd and the obvious brutality shown by the police in effecting some of the arrests caused the Ontario Government to appoint this Commission. The Commission concluded, after 34 days of public hearings and the testimony of 214 witnesses, that the problems were started by a small group of unidentified youthful demonstrators, that there should have been more policemen at the rear of the crowd, that there was inadequate communication by the police with the crowd, that the Mounted Unit should have been used first as a show of force rather than to directly charge the crowd, and, finally that the Mounted Unit was not justified in endangering the lives of other persons by attempting to disperse the agitators.

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### 158 *Solandt Commission. Part I: A Public Inquiry into the Transmission of Power Between Nanticoke and Pickering. Part II: A Public Inquiry into the Transmission of Power Between Lennox and Oshawa.*

Part I appointed on June 21, 1972 by Order in Council 2053/72 and amended on September 13, 1972 by Order in Council 2947/72, both under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier. Part II appointed on March 21, 1973 by Order in Council 836/73 under the *Public Inquiries Act*, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

**Commissioner:** Dr. Omand M. Solandt.

**Report:** Part I. Interim report. Dated October 31, 1972. 3, iii, 38 p. map, typescript. Includes appendices. Part II. *Closing the Generation Gap*. Dated March, 1974. x, 93 p. illus., maps. (1 in pocket). Includes appendices. Final report. *Transmission*. Dated April, 1975. x, xii, 213 p., illus., maps. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Briefs, miscellaneous papers and correspondence connected with the commission.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits, reports, studies, correspondence.

**Historical Background:** Following the release of Ontario Hydro's proposal for the location of the transmission line between Nanticoke and Pickering, several environmental groups (particularly the Coalition of Concerned Citizens, the Sierra Club and the Conservation Council of Ontario) made strong representations to the

Premier opposing the plan. As a result, this Commission was appointed in June 1972 to inquire into the selection of a route for the transmission line. After this phase was completed it was apparent to Dr. Solandt that a further study was required to assess the proposed power line to run between Lennox and Oshawa. This hearing was held during May and June of 1974. Until this point, there had been little provision for public input into Hydro decisions regarding the routing of transmission lines. Dr. Solandt suggested, therefore, that the public be involved in the study of future transmission lines at each major stage rather than leaving the Commission hearings until the study was completed. That way, those who proposed routes would be compelled to defend them and the hearings would not be overwhelmed by submissions opposed to routes as was the case with this commission.

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## *159 Royal Commission on Certain Sectors of the Building Industry*

Appointed on March 28, 1973 by Order in Council 9271/73 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Judge Harry Waisberg.

**Report:** Dated December, 1974. Vol. 1. [The report.] xviii, 344 p., illus. Vol. 2. Appendices, study papers, briefs and exhibits. x, 426 p., illus.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts, index to hearings.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** The 1960s and early 1970s was a period of unprecedented growth in Ontario. The demands placed on the construction industry were intense. New contractors with little experience and capital appeared on the scene overnight and labour unions were rapidly opening new locals and closing others as traditional trades disappeared. Competition between the contractors for bids and workers was stiff and sometimes ruthless. In the period 1968-73 a series of shootings, bombings and fires in Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton shocked Ontarians and this inquiry was called to investigate the sources and causes of this alarming activity. The inquiry lasted a year producing over 13,000 pages of testimony and 1100 exhibits. It found numerous instances of extortion, fire-bombings, shootings and other illegal activities centered around a few unions and certain individuals with criminal records. The recommendations suggested specific ways through which the industry could be cleaned up, including: more rigid firearms and explosives control, supervision of bid depositories, licencing of contractors and subcontractors, reducing the number and variety of bargaining units, encouraging multi-trade and province-wide bargaining and enforcing the provisions of the *Labour Relations Act*.

## *160 Inquiry in Respect to the Affairs of the Township of Kingston*

Appointed on May 16, 1973 by Order in Council 1360/73 under the *Municipal Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Commissioner:** Judge Edward M. Shortt.

**Report:** Dated August 30, 1974. 90 leaves, typescript. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL.

**Historical Backgound:** This Commission was appointed to investigate allegations of conflict of interest against members of the Municipal Council of the Township of Kingston. The complaints charged that the Reeve, in particular, had taken advantage of his position on Council to ensure that proposed water and sewer extensions benefited properties he held and made them more attractive to sell as land suitable for housing development. This, they claimed, was in violation of the *Municipal Act* and the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*. The inquiry had been preceded by six months of intense political controversy in the Township involving accusations from all sides of the dispute. Although the Commissioner felt the allegations had more to do with 'politics' than with anything else, he made a thorough investigation into all matters of substance. He found that none of the complaints were supported by facts and that although the accused had an interest "it was not one different from the community in general, and that such a common interest is one of kind not of degree."

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## *160A Investigation and Inquiry into Violence in Amateur Hockey*

Appointed on April 25, 1974 pursuant to Section 7 of the *Athletics Control Act* and the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Community and Social Services (on the specific request of the Director of Sports and Recreation).

**Commissioner:** William R. McMurtry, Q.C.

**Report:** Dated August 21, 1974. 40 p.

**Report Location:** OTL, OTAR.

**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings.

**Historical Background:** Following a violent Junior B hockey game in Bramalea in April 1974, this Commission was established to investigate the circumstances surrounding this particular episode and to explore any implications for amateur hockey that incidents like this might have. The conclusion of the Commissioner was that there was a substantial increase of violence in amateur hockey and that it was becoming more prevalent in the younger age groups. The Commission identified several sources for this trend - the influence of professional hockey and its condoning of violence as a game strategy, a rule structure that tolerates fighting, lack of definition of objectives and purposes of amateur hockey, badly trained referees, coaches who cannot control their players and undue pressure from parents to win. It recommended that the objectives of amateur hockey be clearly defined, coaches and referees receive more training, fans and parents be educated as to the objectives and that an Ontario Hockey Council be established to oversee the implementation of these recommendations.

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## *161 Royal Commission on the Conduct of Police Forces at Fort Erie on the 11th of May, 1974*

Appointed on June 7, 1974 by Order in Council 1507/74 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Solicitor General.

**Commissioner:** Judge John A. Pringle.

**Report:** Dated January, 1975. 91 leaves, typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Proceedings.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to inquire into the circumstances respecting the conduct of police officers during a raid on a motel in Fort Erie. The motel had long been suspected as a congregating place for persons to buy and sell drugs. Much of the controversy surrounding the raid focussed on the fact that most of the female patrons of the hotel were strip searched (by female officers). While the Commissioner found that the search was lawful, he condemned the strip searches of the women as being "foolish and unnecessary, as not one female was ever seen with a known heroin or other drug trafficker." Some of the recommendations were: that no searches be conducted of persons unless there is reasonable cause to suspect that they are in possession of a drug, that sufficient physicians and registered nurses be sworn in as peace officers to enable them to

conduct searches of females, that the intelligence unit of the Niagara Region Police Department be either disbanded or integrated more fully into the existing command structure and that future raids be more effectively planned with better communications.

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## *162 Royal Commission Inquiry into the Grand River Flood, 1974*

Appointed on June 24, 1974 by Order in Council 1600/74 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Natural Resources.

**Commissioner:** Judge Wilfred Wesley Leach.

**Report:** Dated February, 1975. 93 p., illus., map in pocket.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, minutes of hearings, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** The Grand River Flood of May 1974 was the most severe in the recorded history of the watershed. Following the flood there was widespread criticism of the Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) related to their operation of two dams in the watershed, their flood warning system and communications with the public and municipal officials. The Commission found that while most municipalities affected by the flood were adequately warned and reacted appropriately to protect their communities, Galt-Cambridge - the one community that would bear the worst effects of the flooding - did not take the warnings of the GRCA seriously and was thus unprepared when the city was inundated. Some of the Commission's recommmendations were: to construct another reservoir to store excess water, to draw up a comprehensive water management plan for the Grand River Basin, to improve the GRCA flood warning system, to halt building and development in the regional flood lines, to improve flood forecasting and to encourage municipalities to purchase buildings in the flood plain, demolish them and turn the area into parkland.

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## *163 Royal Commission on the Health and Safety of Workers in Mines*

Appointed on September 10, 1974 by Order in Council 2340/74 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Dr. James Milton Ham.

**Report:** Dated June 30, 1976. xi, 349 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Index to hearings, transcripts, submissions.
**Archives Holdings:** Briefs, exhibits, commission files, proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This investigation arose out of a growing concern over the health risks faced by mine workers when exposed to substances released into the environment as a result of their work. The terms of reference were to investigate all matters related to health and safety involving working conditions in mines in Ontario, to identify the relevant data related to silicosis, lung cancer and other occupational health hazards and to review the basis for Workmen's Compensation Board awards as they relate to environmental health matters affecting miners. After an extensive investigation, visits to mines and numerous public hearings held in mining communities, the Commission released its report. It concluded that the problems related to health and safety of workers in mines arose out of the fact that divided jurisdictions made it unclear where the initiative necessary to deal with problems was to be taken. Workers had also been denied effective participation in tackling these problems. The report contained 117 recommendations including directives that lung diseases be monitored and the resulting information be made available to workers, that measurement procedures of contaminants be improved, that Codes of Practice be drawn up in consultation with workers related to the confinement of dust and the provision of ventilation in the workplace, and that a Joint Labour-Management Health and Safety Committee be established at each mine and plant to be composed of equal numbers of industry and worker representatives. These recommendations were incorporated into a new *Health and Safety Mines and Plants Act.*

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## *164 Royal Commission on Metropolitan Toronto (See also #138)*

Appointed on September 10, 1974 by Order in Council 2365/74 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable John P. Robarts.

**Report:** Dated June 15, 1977. vol. 1. *Metropolitan Toronto: A Framework for the Future.* 62 p., illus., maps. vol. 2. *Detailed Findings and Recommendations.* 63-395 p. illus., maps. Includes appendices.

**Notes:** Vol. 2 contains a list of background studies and submissions. The Legislative Library also has a collection of Updates published by the commission, a transcript of the hearings, 3190 leaves, typescript and briefs submitted in 12 vols.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Submissions, transcripts, research reports.

**Historical Background:** Following the establishment of the two-tier Metropolitan system of local government for the Toronto area in 1954, periodic reviews were held to assess the efficiency of the system and to recommend changes if necessary. This Commission was one such review. Its terms of reference were to examine, evaluate and make appropriate recommendations on the structure, organization and operation of local government within the Metro Toronto area, including the consideration of a single or two-tier form of government. According to the Commissioner, "the report as a whole is a comprehensive agenda for the future evaluation of the Metropolitan system rather than a collection of specific, unrelated prescriptions." The major recommendations were: that the two-tier form of local government be continued, that a three year term of municipal office be reinstated in Metro Toronto, that members of Metro Council consist of area mayors as well as those directly elected to Metro Council, that the Chairman of Metro Council be appointed from the elected members, that municipal boundaries be redefined, that a Toronto Region Coordinating Agency be created to facilitate the planning and development of the Toronto region, that housing targets be established as part of a comprehensive Metro housing policy and that Metro be given responsibility for public transit and policing.

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## *165 Royal Commission on the Toronto Jail and Custodial Services*

Appointed on October 9, 1974 by Order in Council 2634/74 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Correctional Services.

**Commissioner:** Judge B. Barry Shapiro.

**Report:** Dated March, 1978. vol. 1. xii, 193 p. illus. vol. 2. Briefs and supplements. 314 p. illus. vol. 3. xlii, 494 p. illus. vol. 4. 495-1013 p. illus.

**Notes:** Recommendations 2, 3 and 4 were presented to the Legislature January 19, 1978.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Index to hearings, transcripts.
**Archives Holdings:** Exhibits, miscellaneous documents, logbooks.

**Historical Background:** This report was the culmination of a four year investigation into the treatment of inmates by correctional officers in the Toronto (Don) Jail. It was one of the most thorough and wide-ranging inquiries of its type

producing over 1300 exhibits, 21,000 pages of testimony, and hundreds of interviews with jail staff, inmates and independent witnesses. As well, the Commission visited correctional institutions in Ontario, Quebec, California, England, Holland, Denmark and Sweden. Central to the commission's philosophy were the beliefs that standards of behaviour within a correctional institution must reflect the standards that exist outside it; and, when treated with respect, inmates will respond in kind. The impetus for the Royal Commission arose out of allegations made by a former correctional officer that unnecessary force was used by correctional officers against inmates at the Toronto Jail. Ultimately 124 allegations of mistreatment of inmates were investigated. There were findings of use of unnecessary force in about two out of five cases. As a result of the inquiry, the Commission made 71 recommendations, the most important that a Toronto Jail Council, to be modelled on the British Boards of Visitors, be established. It would consist of up to 20 representatives from all segments of society to provide a link between the jail and the public. Other recommendations concentrated on improving the inmate's quality of life while in jail, training and selection of correctional officers, the physical premises, and establishing clear regulations regarding the treatment of inmates.

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## *166 The Royal Commission into Metropolitan Toronto Police Practices*

Appointed on October 23, 1974 by Order in Council 2789/74 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Solicitor General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Donald R. Morand.

**Report:** Dated June 30, 1976. xix, 272 p., typescript.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts, index to hearings.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to investigate allegations of excessive use of force by the Metropolitan Toronto Police and to determine whether this use of force was common practice. Of the seventeen individuals who complained of excessive use of force by the Metro Toronto Police Force, the Commissioner ruled that six were justified while eleven were not entirely justified. He also found that the police tried to cover up their activities and lied before the Commission. He concluded, therefore, that although the excessive use of force was not a tendency or practice in the Police Force, there were disturbing elements and characteristics within the Force that needed to be rectified. To this end he made 28 recommendations. First among these was that the Chief of Police make it absolutely clear that excessive force and the giving of false evidence would not be tolerated.

Other recommendations stated the need for a properly functioning citizen complaint procedure and better training of police officers. An interesting sidelight to the Commission was its "intense investigation into the validity of the polygraph test," the first of its kind in Canada. The Commissioner found that the polygraph test was not conclusive and therefore should not be used in the criminal law process for other than investigative purposes.

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## *167 Royal Commission on Violence in the Communications Industry*

Appointed on May 7, 1975 by Order in Council 1299/75 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier.

**Chair:** The Honourable Julia Verlyn LaMarsh.

**Commissioners:** Judge Arthur Beaulieu, Scott Alexander Young.

**Report:** Interim report. Dated January, 1976. Various paging. Final Report. Dated 1977. vol. 1. *Approaches, Conclusions and Recommendations.* 497 p., illus., vol. 2. *Violence in the Media: A Bibliography.* 171 p., vol. 3. *Violence in Television, Film and News.* 703 p., vol. 4. *Violence in Print and Music.* 239 p., vol. 5. *Learning from the Media.* 314 p., vol. 6. *Vulnerability to Media Effects.* 401 p., vol. 7. *The Media Industries: From Here to Where.* 325 p.

**Notes:** Vols. 3-7 contain 28 independent studies. Vol. 1 is also available in French entitled *Expos du problème, conclusions et recommendations.*

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Research reports.

**Historical background:** This Commission was formed as a result of a growing perception by Canadians that the incidence of violence depicted in the media was increasing. Its terms of reference were to study the effects of the increasing exhibition of violence in the communciations industry with relation to the incidence of violent crime in society. Accordingly, 61 public hearings were held in communities all over Ontario from October 1975 to May 1976. Twenty-eight research reports emanated from the study and 87 recommendations were made. Most people felt that no good, and perhaps considerable harm, could come to society when television and other media devoted so much time and space to brutality -from crime shows to violent episodes in sports programs. Most of the criticism was levelled at television programs imported from the United States and other countries. In order to regain some control over what Canadians were watching, the Commission recommended that the whole broadcasting system be restructured to make it more responsive to Canada's cultural identity and to increase

the level of accountability of those who take profit from communication. This was to be accomplished by the creation of a national television system to replace the CBC which would consist of a multi-channel publicly-directed cable system offering a wide range of programs with violence curtailed. Parliamentary subsidies would be phased out and replaced by a user fee system. Other recommendations included the expansion of TV Ontario throughout the province, the creation of Film Canada to facilitate the distribution of Canadian-made films, the introduction of a Freedom of Expression Act to define clearly the limits of freedom of expression and the appointment of a Media Ombudsman to oversee the enforcement of the Act. It also recommended better training for journalists, the development of public and high school courses on the mass media, establishment of Film Classification Board, and finally, that parents take an active role with respect to their children's media diet.

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## *168 Royal Commission on Petroleum Products Pricing*

Appointed on July 16, 1975 by Order in Council 1998/75 amended on August 6, 1975 by Order in Council 2126/75, both under the *Public Inquiries Act*, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier.

**Commissioners:** Claude Malcolm Isbister.

**Report:** First report. Dated September 30, 1975. ii, 40 p. Supplement to first report dated January 14, 1976. 8 p. Includes appendices. Final report. Dated July 19, 1976. iv, 192 p., illus. Includes appendices.

**Notes:** Final report includes first report dated September 30, 1975 and supplement to the first report dated January 14, 1976. First report and supplement also published separately.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Index to hearings, transcripts, submissions.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** The world-wide oil crisis in 1973 caused prices to rise so quickly that consumers questioned whether they were justified and demanded that the government do something. The Ontario government responded by imposing a freeze on the price of gasoline in July 1975 that lasted until the following November. This Commission was established to determine how the rapidly increasing price of oil affected the interests of Ontarians and to consider what steps Ontario might take to alleviate the effects of these changes. One of the observations of the Commission was that, as a net importer of oil, Ontario was in an unfavourable position while oil-producing regions like Alberta benefited from the

crisis. With conflicting governmental jurisdictions over energy resources, the need for a national energy policy became apparent. As for the effect of the gasoline price freeze on the supply and price of oil, the Commission concluded that it was beneficial to consumers in the short term but should not become a long-term policy. The Commission recognized three major issues related to petroleum that would have to be resolved before Ontario could return to a relatively secure economic environment: energy conservation, the consequences of having control of major Canadian oil companies lying outside the country, and the role of the state in the exploration and production of oil.

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## *169 The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Algoma University College June 30, 1976 -- November 15, 1977*

Appointed on March 10, 1976 by Order in Council 616/76 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** John W. Whiteside Q.C.

**Report:** Preliminary report. Dated June 30, 1976. 85 p., typescript. Second report. Dated July 30, 1976. 95 p., typescript. Third report. Dated June 3, 1977. 18 p., typescript. Final report. Dated November 15, 1977. 76 p. plus appendices, typescript. All bound in one volume.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts, exhibits, submissions, miscellaneous papers.

**Historical Background:** Born in the expansionist sixties, Algoma University College in Sault Ste. Marie was experiencing severe financial, administrative and organizational problems by the mid-1970s. This Commission was established to look into the problems that beset the college and make recommendations as to its future prospects. Although seriously intent on trying to find ways to ensure the continued existence of Algoma, the Commissioner concluded that the combined forces of low enrolment, scarce funding resources and the inability to attract students from outside the area made the College redundant. Debate in the House focussed on the central premise of a report by Dr. David Cameron, called *The Northern Dilemma: Public Policy and Post-Secondary Education in North Ontario* (1976) which stated that criteria employed in judging universities in Southern Ontario cannot be applied to the north. The Minister of Colleges and Universities accepted this argument and consequently decided to grant Algoma a five year moratorium which ultimately turned into a complete reprieve.

## *170 The Commission on the Reform of Property Taxation in Ontario*

Appointed on May 5, 1976 by Order in Council 1284/76 on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier. No indication of authorizing statute in Order in Council.

**Chair:** Willis L. Blair.

**Commissioners:** Allan R. Cooper, John S. Darling, Henry E. Davis, R.K. White, Joseph W. Fyfe, M. Dean Henderson, Irene Mooney, Robert P. Simon, Edward E. Mitchelson.

**Report:** Dated March 10, 1977. xiii, 143 p. Includes appendices.

**Notes:** The Legislative Library also has a resume of the report in French: *Rapport de la Commission de la reforme de l'impot foncier en Ontario*, vii, 28 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** News release.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established to review proposals for tax reform which were presented in the 1976 Ontario Budget. The Commission's report dealt with issues related to property taxation including the definition of property and how public and recreational property as well as property owned by charitable institutions, businesses and farms should be taxed. The major recommendation of the report was that the standard used to assess taxes be the property's market value as it "is the only basis upon which a property tax system with acceptable criteria of fairness and equity may be built." The Commission decided that property taxes were not regressive as many claimed, and that they should pay not only for "hard" services such as roads and sewers, but for "soft" services as well like schools and welfare. Province-wide market value assessment was introduced in 1978 as Bill 146, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act*, but opposition from the municipalities convinced the government to delay its full imposition. This bill, therefore, was amended each year so as to prevent the automatic introduction of market value assessment across the province. In 1986, Bill 167, *An Act to Amend the Assessment Act* removed the requirement that assessment rolls for every municipality in Ontario be returned at full market value. The municipalities could, however, voluntarily accept market value assessment, and, by 1986, over 600 of the 838 municipalities in the province had adopted the practice.

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## *171 Inquiry in Respect to the Affairs of the Township of Malden*

Appointed on September 22, 1976 by Order in Council 2687/76 and amended on October 27, 1976 by Order in Council 3024/76 and on January 12, 1977 by Order in Council 98/77, all under the *Public Inquiries Act* and the *Municipal Act*, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Commissioner:** Judge Bruce J.S. Macdonald.

**Report:** Dated April, 1977. 97 leaves, typescript, maps.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established after ratepayers in the Township of Malden (near Windsor) objected to excessive sewer surcharges levied on them by the Township. Upon investigation it was found that the Clerk-Treasurer of the Township, Mr. S. Jack Langlois, had "seriously misconducted himself in a number of matters" so as to facilitate the registration, servicing and sale of his own subdivision. The Commission also found that rural municipal councils were particularly vulnerable to such abuses because of their unfamiliarity with urban development practices, and recommended that urban municipalities annex any lands proposed for subdivision development that extend into a rural municipality. It also recommended that municipal officials be required to disclose personal interests in matters before Council as was already the case with elected officials.

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## *172 Commission of Inquiry into the Acquisition by the Ministry of Housing of Certain Lands in the Community of North Pickering*

Appointed on October 26, 1976 by Order in Council 2959/76 and amended on December 22, 1976 by Order in Council 3545/76 and on May 15, 1977 by Order in Council 1389/77, all under the *Public Inquiries Act*, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Chair:** The Honourable J.F. Donnelly.

**Commissioners:** R.M. Grant, Q.C., G.P. Marriott, David G. Humphrey, Q.C. Humphrey replaced Marriott by the appointment of December 22, 1976. Marriott replaced Humphrey by the appointment of May 15, 1977.

**Report:** Dated December 5, 1977. xiv, 163, 22 p., typescript. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** In March 1972 the Ontario government announced plans to build an international airport in Pickering Township, northeast of Toronto. Plans were made immediately for the acquisition of land for the airport and housing development, and land acquisition agents were hired and trained by the Ministry of Housing. By May 1975 the Ombudsman for Ontario had received complaints from 23 of the former landowners about the treatment they had received in the acquisition of their land. The Ombudsman investigated their complaints and issued a report which made allegations of misconduct against five land acquisition agents. The Minister of Housing objected to these allegations and a Select Committee was struck to resolve the disagreement. The result of the Select Committee report was the establishment of this Commission. Its terms of reference were to consider the merits of claims for additional compensation by the former landowners, the amount of any additional compensation, and the allegations of misconduct against the five land acquisition agents. In the course of the sitting of the Commission, the claimants withdrew from the proceedings claiming that their complaints were not against particular individuals but rather against the government in general. Nevertheless, the Commission, agreeing with Counsel for the agents that his clients should be given an opportunity to answer the allegations made against them, decided to resume the investigation. The Commission concluded that "none of the allegations of misconduct made in the Report of the Ombudsman is justified." One of the significant results of this dispute was the creation of the Select Committee on the Ombudsman (later becoming a Standing Committee) which continued to meet annually after 1976 to consider and act on the Ombudsman's report to the Legislature.

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## *173 Commission of Inquiry on Aluminum Wiring*

Appointed on April 6, 1977 by Order in Council 1029/79 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

**Commissioner:** Dr. John Tuzo Wilson.

**Report:** Part 1. Dated September 30, 1978. xiii, 29 p. Part 2. Dated March, 1979. xvi, 181 p. Part 3. Dated March, 1979. vii, 69 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts, exhibits, index to hearings.

**Historical Background:** After persistent questioning from the Opposition about the safety of aluminum wiring in residential homes, this Commission was established in April 1977, to investigate the safety and reliability of aluminum wiring compared with copper wiring. The Commission found that, contrary to public perception, there were relatively few fires attributed to failures in residential aluminum wiring. It made, however, 43 recommendations designed to improve the safety and reliability of the product. As well, Ontario Hydro was directed to offer free inspections of all homes with aluminum wiring and an Aluminum Wiring Resource Centre was established to deal with the public's concerns.

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### *174 Public Inquiry into Ronto Development Company*

Appointed on April 20, 1977 by Order in Council 1182/77 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier and President of the Council.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice John David Cromarty.

**Report:** Dated July, 1977. viii, 58 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts of hearings, exhibits, proceedings.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established to deal with allegations that Ronto Development Company had received an exemption from the *Land Speculation Tax Act, 1974* by improper means so that it could sell unserviced land it had acquired for housing development in Brantford to George Wimpey Canada Limited. Before selling to Wimpey, the family of one of the partners of Ronto went to Darcy McKeough, the Treasurer of Ontario at the time, for advice as to whether they would be exempt from the speculation tax. McKeough advised that, in his opinion, Ronto would be exempt, and subsequently the company received the exemption and the sale of Wimpey went through. The Inquiry found that McKeough had not used undue influence to achieve the exemption and, in fact, did not have any contact with the Revenue Minister with regard to this matter at all. Some opposition members were dissatisfied with the outcome of the Inquiry since they continued to believe that the Revenue Minister had not been properly informed and did not have enough information about the deal to decide whether to grant the tax exemption.

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## *175 The Royal Commission Appointed to Inquire into Waste Management Inc., et cetera*

Appointed on May 15, 1977 by Order in Council 1424/77 amended on May 23, 1977 by Order in Council 1458/77 both under the *Public Inquiries Act*, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Prime Minister.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Samuel H.S. Hughes.

**Report:** Dated March 30, 1978. vi, 133 p., maps. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** During the election campaign of 1977 allegations arose over a political contribution of $35,000 made in 1974 by Waste Management Inc. of Oak Brook, Illinois to the Ontario Conservative Party. Premier Davis reacted immediately by establishing this Commission. Since the political contribution was made before the imposition of the *Election Finances Reform Act, 1975*, its amount was not an issue. What was at issue was whether the contribution influenced Ministry policy in respect to the company receiving special treatment in the operation of its waste disposal business. A suspicious coincidence was the granting of a certificate of approval to the company for landfilling a 20 acre site near Maple only seven days after the cheque was issued to the Party fund. Nevertheless, the Commissioner found that there was no evidence "of wrongdoing or impropriety or any improper influence brought to bear on members of the Ontario government or its public service" on the part of Waste Management Inc., and that there was "no evidence that anyone at the Ministry of the Environment knew anything about the donation until three years later." The Commission found however that the Ministry, in general, failed to enforce its regulations and recommended that measures be taken to ensure that the provisions of the *Environmental Protection Act, 1971* were carried out to their full extent.

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## *176 Hamilton-Wentworth Review Commission*

Appointed on September 14, 1977 by Order in Council 2588/77 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economics and Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Chair:** Henry E. Stewart

**Commissioners:** Harold Dixon, Dr. James Johnson.

**Report:** Dated March 30, 1978. xxxv, 227 p., maps. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** In 1974 several small municipalities in Wentworth Co. were amalgamated into larger ones, and they, along with the City of Hamilton, were incorporated into the Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth. It was a two-tier system of government with the municipalities operating as separate entities with their own municipal councils while the Regional Council consisted of members of the municipal councils. The Regional Municipality was concerned with land-use planning, industrial development, social services, solid waste disposal and arterial roads among other things. The municipalities' responsibilities consisted of anything not specifically assigned to the regional government. Following this reform, there remained concerns about its cost, duplication, and access by the public. This Review Commission was established in 1977 to investigate the organization, administration and functioning of the system of local government in the Hamilton-Wentworth Region. It concluded that the existing two-tier system was not working in the best interest of the public, and recommended that the lower-tier (the separate municipal councils) be abolished completely and be replaced by a single-tiered municipal government which would be called the City of Wentworth. Because of opposition from the smaller communities in the region, however, this recommendation was not accepted by the government. Accountability of the regional government, one of the problems identified by the Commission, was improved in 1987 with Bill 192 which provided for the election of the Chairman of the Regional Council by a general vote.

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## *177 Commission of Inquiry re: Provincial Judge Harry J. Williams*

Appointed on September 21, 1977 by Order in Council 2648/77 under the *Provincial Courts Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Mr. Justice Sydney L. Robins.

**Report:** Dated February, 1978. ix, 29 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This was a judicial inquiry into the behaviour of Provincial Court Judge Harry J. Williams of Ottawa, to ascertain whether he should be removed from office. It was determined that Judge Williams had liaisons with prostitutes not only on their premises but also in his own court chambers. The Commissioner concluded that "Public knowledge of improper conduct by a judge

can only erode public confidence in him as a judge and in the administration of justice." Consequently Judge Williams was removed as a Provincial Judge of the Provincial Court (Criminal Division) of Ontario.

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## *178 Royal Commission on Electric Power Planning*

Appointed on March 12, 1975 by Order in Council 747/75 and amended on July 17, 1975 by Order in Council 2005A/75 and 2005B/75, on December 14, 1977 by Order in Council 3489/77, on July 5, 1978 by Order in Council 1999/78, on July 12, 1978 by Order in Council 2065/78, on August 29, 1979 by Order in Council 2417/79, on October 24, 1979 by Order in Council 2837/79 all under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development.

**Chair:** Dr. Arthur Porter.

**Commissioners:** Robert E. Costello (Resigned May 9, 1977 due to ill health), George A. McCague, Solange Plourde-Gagnon, William W. Stevenson.

**Report:** First report dated May 1976, entitled *Shaping the Future*, 51 p.; interim report on Nuclear Power in Ontario dated 1978, cover title, *A Race against Time*, xviii, 227 p.; two other reports dated 1979, *Report on the Need for Additional Bulk Power Facilities in Southwestern Ontario*, various pagings, *Report on the Need for Additional Bulk Power Facilities in Eastern Ontario*, various pagings. Final Report dated February 1980. 9 vol. Vol. 1 *Concepts, conclusions, and recommendations.* xxiii, 225 p. Vol. 2 *The electric power system in Ontario.* xiv, 128 p. Vol. 3 *Factors affecting the demand for electricity in Ontario.* xi, 74 p. Vol. 4 *Energy supply and technology for Ontario.* xiv, 105 p. Vol. 5 *Economic considerations in the planning of electric power in Ontario.* xiv, 135 p. Vol. 6 *Environmental and health implications of electric energy in Ontario.* xvi, 124 p. Vol. 7 *The socio-economic and land-use impacts of electric power in Ontario.* xiv, 96 p. Vol. 8 *Decision-making, regulation, and public participation: a framework for electric power planning in Ontario for the 1980's.* xv, 83 p. Vol. 9 *A bibliography to the report.* xi, 90 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Exhibits, transcripts, submissions.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings, miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** Prompted by concerns over declining fossil fuel energy resources and demands by increasingly well-organized and vocal environmental groups for better energy conservation measures and more public involvement in the

energy planning process, this Commission was established in July 1975. Its terms of reference were to investigate health and safety aspects of nuclear power plants, land-use implications of the routing of specific bulk transmission lines, the siting of power generation facilities, the environmental impacts of generating stations and transmission lines and to develop a framework for decision-making. After four and a half years of deliberations, research papers and public hearings, the Commission report was released on February 29, 1980. Most of the 88 recommendations dealt with ways of making the province more energy efficient by the development of alternative energy sources and the establishment of strict environmental standards. The government accepted 77 of the recommendations, many of which were incorporated into the regulations governing Ontario Hydro. Many of the concerns about public input were addressed in the *Consolidated Hearings Act, 1981*, introduced by the Minister of the Environment.

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## *179 Commission on Freedom of Information and Individual Privacy*

Appointed on March 30, 1977 by Order in Council 920/77 and amended on July 27, 1977 by Order in Council 2070/77 and on April 26, 1978 by Order in Council 1204/78 all under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Premier and President of the Council.

**Chair:** Dr. D. Carlton Williams.

**Commissioners:** G.H.U. Bayly, Dorothy J. Burgoyne.

**Report:** Dated September 1980. 3 vol. entitled *Public Government for Private People*, xxi, 812 p. Vol. 1 *[recommendations]*. Vol. 2 *Freedom of Information*. Vol. 3 *Protection of Privacy*.

**Notes:** Report includes index to public briefs.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Briefs, submissions, research papers.
**Archives Holdings:** Exhibits, tapes of submissions, miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** The road to Ontario's *Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy Act* of 1987 was long and winding. The first bill on the subject was introduced in the minority Conservative House by NDP member Donald MacDonald in 1975, but was "talked out" at second reading. Increasing discussion on the principle of freedom of information as well as pending federal legislation prompted the Conservative government to establish this Commission in 1977. The Commission recommended the enactment of a freedom of information

law to establish the general public right of access to government-held information, a list of specific exemptions from the right of access, and independent review of government decisions to withhold information and privacy protection provisions. Some specific recommendations were that individuals should have the right to examine and correct records containing personal information about themselves, that the law should apply to local as well as provincial government institutions and that a general directory of information be created to assist citizens to locate the government-held information they require. Although the Commission report, which was released in 1980, received wide approval, the Conservative government did not introduce legislation until May of 1984. Bill 80 died on the order paper after first reading when the House was prorogued in December 1984 and an election called the following February. Finally, the Liberal government introduced Bill 34, an *Act to Provide for Freedom of Information and Protection of Individual Privacy*, in April 1986. This bill was passed, after going to committee for almost a year, on June 25, 1987. Although several amendments were added to the original bill, the Act remained very similar to the legislation recommended in the Commission report.

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## *180 Royal Commission on the Status of Pensions*

Appointed on April 20, 1977 by Order in Council 1098/77 and amended by Order in Council 346/78 on February 1, 1978 both under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economic and Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Chair:** Donna J. Haley, Q.C.

**Commissioners:** Albert H. Cordell, Donald G.M. Coxe, Charles McDonald (replaced Terry Meagher who resigned effective February 1, 1978), Walter G. Upshall.

**Report:** 10 vol. Dated October 1980. Vol. 1-3 entitled *Design for Retirement.* Vol. 4 *Your Income in Retirement (a Consumer's Guide).* Vol. 5 *Ontario and the Canada Pension Plan.* Vol. 6-7 *Pensions for Ontario Public Sector Employees.* Vol. 8-9 *Background Studies and Papers.* Vol. 10 *Summary Report: A Plan for the Future* (includes all recommendations).

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Submissions, briefs, miscellaneous documents.
**Archives Holdings:** Transcripts.

**Historical Background:** Concern over the erosion of pensions caused by rising inflation and the inadequacy of many private pension plans, and demands from the

public to expand the Canada Pension Plan, resulted in the establishment of this Commission in April 1977. The Commission report, which was completed in October 1980, contains 163 recommendations. Public outcry at the time over the rising number of plant shutdowns and the fate of workers losing their pension benefits, made pension reform a contentious issue. The report was delayed from being presented to the House in the fall of 1980 although an amendment to the *Pension Benefits Act* was passed in December of that year. Bill 214 addressed some of the concerns of the Commission regarding the protection of an employee's contributions to a pension plan, disclosure of plan policies, and the establishment of a Pension Guarantee Fund. In July 1981, a Select Committee was appointed to review the report and make further recommendations. Finally, in June 1987, the revised *Pension Benefits Act* was passed (Bill 170). The Commission's major recommendation, that a mandatory provincial universal retirement savings plan be created, was not included. Other recommendations providing for greater pension plan portability and easier membership qualifications to include part-time workers were included.

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## *180A Royal Commission on the Northern Environment*

Appointed on July 13, 1977 by Order in Council 1900/77 and amended by Order in Council 2316/78 and 3679/81 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Environment.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice E.P. Hartt, appointed July 13, 1977. Mr. J. Edward Fahlgren, replaced Justice Hartt, effective August 2, 1978.

**Report:** Interim Report and Recommendations. Dated April 4, 1978. 46 p. Text in English and French, Cree and Ojibway. Issues Report. Dated December 1978. 275 p. Final Report and Recommendations. Dated June 28, 1985. 280 p. and appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Hearings, exhibits, studies, funding reports, commission newsletter.
**Archives Holdings:** Issue papers, submissions, exhibits.

**Historical Background:** Called in response to the public outcry against the construction of a huge pulp and paper mill (Reed Paper Co.) and the granting to it of timber limits in the last large uncut stands in the province, this Commission was charged with establishing guidelines for resource development in Ontario north of the 50th parallel. It was also charged with determining how to apply the *Environmental Assessment Act*, passed in 1975, in assessing the environmental effects of major enterprises in the north. The Final Report, released eight years

after the Commission was struck, made 129 recommendations. Some acted upon by the government were the establishment of a Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, a $100 million northern development fund, a native economic support program, and an independent audit of forest resources.

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## *181 Waterloo Region Review Commission*

Appointed on September 14, 1977 by Order in Council 2577/77 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of Economic and Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Commissioner:** William H. Palmer.

**Report:** Dated March 1979. xiv, 348 p. Includes recommendations.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Studies.
**Archives Holdings:** Briefs, submissions, miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** In 1973 the *Regional Municipality of Waterloo Act* was passed which created a two-tier local government structure for the Waterloo area. This involved the creation of the City of Cambridge from three smaller towns, Preston, Galt and Hespeler, and its incorporation with Kitchener, Waterloo and other smaller communities into one region. This realignment resulted in a rather contentious period of adjustment during which taxes were higher and services lower. This Commission was established to evaluate the performance of the regional government and compare it with the former system. The Commission concluded that the regional government worked well and should be maintained. Recommendations dealt with the delineation of powers between municipal and regional councils, the delegation of some provincial powers to the regional government and the coordination of provincial ministerial policies with respect to the regional government. Another major recommendation was the removal of conditional grants to municipalities by the provincial government.

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## *182 Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Information*

Appointed on December 21, 1977 by Order in Council 3566/77 and amended by Order in Council 1129/78 on April 19, 1978 both under the *Public Inquiries Act* on

the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Health.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice Horace Krever.

**Report:** Dated December 1980, 3 vol. Vol. 1 xvi, 583 p. Includes recommendations. Vol. 2 vi, 534 p. Vol. 3 vi, 510 p.

**Notes:** This commission was also referred to as the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Confidentiality of Health Records in Ontario. Report includes a list of briefs.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Briefs, alphabetical list of submissions, transcripts.
**Archives Holdings:** Miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established in response to allegations that police had obtained health records that were supposed to be confidential. Its terms of reference were to determine whether proper protection is given to people who have received health care, to review all legislation concerned with the confidentiality of health records and to investigate any misconduct in relation to legislation. The magnitude of abuses of confidentiality, however, soon became apparent. The Commission held public hearings for one year and in October, 1980 released its report, containing 170 recommendations. These were reviewed by Dr. James D. Galloway who, in consultation with health care providers and consumers, made further recommendations on how to implement them. Although there were some reservations about granting individuals access to their own health records, many of the recommendations were incorporated into the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, 1987.*

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## *183 Judicial Inquiry Into the Care of Kim Anne Popen by the Children's Aid Society of the City of Sarnia and the County of Lambton*

Appointed effective February 28, 1978 by Ministerial Order of the Minister of Community and Social Services pursuant to the provisions of section 3 of the *Child Welfare Act.*

**Commissioner:** Judge H. Ward Allen.

**Report:** Dated October 1982, 4 vol. 1826 p.

**Notes:** Volume 4 includes recommendations.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Transcripts, exhibits.
**Archives Holdings:** Briefs, exhibits, transcripts and summaries of evidence.

**Historical Background:** This Commission arose out of the death of baby Kim Anne Popen in August 1976 as the result of child abuse. It was believed that the Children's Aid Society had let the child down and, therefore, played a significant role in her eventual death. The Commission was appointed to investigate all matters related to the care of Kim Anne Popen by the Children's Aid Society and the actions of its employees and other individuals or agencies involved with the case. It was also to review the Society's ability to perform the powers and duties assigned to it. The Commission concluded that the Society, its personnel and other agencies involved did not perform their duties well or in the best interest of the child. According to the report, "the most striking aspect of the Inquiry was the failure of various persons to comply with the provisions of the *Child Welfare Act*." Eighty-seven recommendations were made by the Commission. Some of the most significant were that professionals involved in child welfare cases have specific training to recognize and deal with cases of child abuse, that the public be educated about child abuse and be compelled to report suspected cases, that reporting procedures of child abuse cases be expanded and clarified, that there be cooperaton between agencies when dealing with child abuse cases and that the definition of child abuse be broadened to include emotional, psychological and social abuse. Many of these recommendations were included in Bill 77, *An Act Respecting the Protection and Well-being of Children and their Families* passed on December 14, 1984.

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## *184 Royal Commission of Inquiry into Discounting and Allowances in the Food Industry in Ontario*

Appointed on August 23, 1978 by Order in Council 2537/78 and amended by Order in Council 404/79 on February 7, 1979 both under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

**Commissioner:** His Honour James Frederick William Ross, replaced on February 7, 1979 because of ill health by his Honour Wilfred Wesley Leach.

**Report:** Dated September 1980. xviii, 593 p.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Proceedings, briefs, exhibits, alphabetical list of briefs.
**Archives Holdings:** Transcripts, submissions, exhibits, miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** After debates had arisen in the Legislative Assembly over the practice of buyers (usually large supermarket chains) requiring rebates or discounts from suppliers, it was decided to call a Royal Commission to investigate the matter. Its terms of reference were to inquire into discounts, allowances, rebates or other forms of payment offered by or exacted from persons engaged in the marketing of food or grocery food products, and the effects of this practice on consumers and farmers. The Commission concluded that a rebate system was highly developed in Ontario's food industry but that it did not adversely affect consumer or farm prices. Only three recommendations came out of the Commission: that no more inquiries on this subject be conducted, that the sale of wine be permitted by large and small retailers and that a forum be established, outside government, to mediate problems between the various levels of the food industry chain. Bill 47 (1982) addressed the conclusions of the Royal Commission, but the private member's bill was blocked by the government on April 29, 1982 and no vote was taken.

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## *185 Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos in Ontario*

Appointed on April 29, 1980 by Order in Council 1243/80 and amended by Order in Council 1661/80 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Labour.

**Chair:** J. Stefan Dupré.

**Commissioners:** J. Fraser Mustard, Robert J. Uffen.

**Report:** Dated April 1984. 3 vols. xvi, 920 p. Includes appendices.

**Notes:** Report includes French translation of chapter 1.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Proceedings, exhibits, submissions, studies.
**Archives Holdings:** Proceedings of first and second public meetings.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established in response to the rising concern over the use of asbestos in the construction of schools and other public buildings. Its terms of reference were to investigate all matters related to health and safety arising from the use of asbestos in Ontario, to identify the relevant data related to asbestos-induced diseases (asbestosis and mesothelioma) and the health hazards faced by people working with asbestos, and to review the basis for Workers Compensation Board awards as they relate to these diseases. The Commission concluded that the health risk to the public from exposure to asbestos in buildings

was insignificant. However, during demolition of these buildings or asbestos removal projects, workers were at considerable risk. It was recommended, therefore, that procedures be established to protect these workers. The Commission also recommended that asbestos-related diseases should be automatically compensable by the Workers' Compensation Board and that other Board practices be improved to better serve the injured worker. Many of these recommendations (117 in all) were included in Bill 51, *An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act, 1984* and Bill 101, *The Occupational Health and Safety Act, 1986.*

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## *186 Commission of Inquiry into the Toronto Islands*

Appointed on June 24, 1980 by Order in Council 1805/80 and amended on August 1, 1980 both under the *Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs.

**Commissioner:** Barry B. Swadron, Q.C.

**Report:** Dated June 1982. xii, 598 p. includes appendices. Report titled *Pressure Island.*

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Transcripts of hearings, exhibits, submissions, and other miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** By 1980, the conflict between the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto and the City of Toronto over the presence of residents on the Toronto Islands had reached, according to Commissioner Swadron, the "boiling point" and beyond. Metropolitan Toronto wanted the Island homes removed and the land developed as parkland, while the City wanted the Island community to remain as it was. This Commission was appointed in June of 1980 as a means of diffusing the strong feelings that had developed and to bring an objective voice to the discussion. Although there had been several studies done in the past on the issue, this was, the first time an independent study was attempted. After painstaking efforts to consider all relevant information and to allow full public participation in the hearings, the Commissioner recommended that the Island community be permitted to remain until July 31, 2005 and, because of the friction between the Metropolitan government and the Island residents, that this land be leased to the City of Toronto during this term and be administered by it. All normal City services were to be maintained and/or improved. Most of the recommendations made by the Commissioner were incorporated in Bill 191, *An Act to amend the Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Act, 1981* which was passed by the House on December 17, 1981.

## *187 Public Inquiry Into Fire Safety in Highrise Buildings*

Appointed on June 30, 1982 by Order in Council 1791/82 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Solicitor General.

**Commissioner:** Hon. John B. Webber.

**Report:** Dated December 1983. xx, 408 p., 2 vol. Second vol. contains appendices to report.

**Notes:** Summary in French.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Outline of evidence, exhibits, alphabetical list of briefs, subject index to transcripts, transcripts.
**Archives Holdings:** Exhibits, briefs, submissions, and transcripts.

**Historical Background:** Prompted by a number of highrise fires in Canada and the United States in the fall of 1980 and the winter of 1981, this Commission was established in June of 1982 to answer the public's concern about the safety of apartment buildings, hotels and office towers in the event of a fire. The terms of reference for the Commission were to assess the dangers to which occupants are exposed when a fire occurs in a highrise building, the public's awareness of actions to take in case of fire and the need for public education programs, the value of fire safeguards, and the effectiveness of fire prevention inspections. In all, 129 recommendations were made concerning such things as improvements in highrise Fire Safety Plans, smoke control measures, fire alarm systems, public education and methods of evacuation.

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## *188 Commission of Inquiry into Residential Tenancies*

Appointed on November 26, 1982 by Order in Council 3092/82 and amended on August 31, 1983 by Order in Council 2504/83 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

**Commissioner:** Stuart Douglas Thom, Q.C.

**Report:** Volume 1, dated August 16, 1984. xxvii, 297 p. includes appendices. Volume 2, dated April 13, 1987. xxxi, 414 p. includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Legislative Library Holdings:** Reports, submissions, surveys, studies, proceedings.
**Archives Holdings:** Studies, press clippings, correspondence, exhibits, commission files.

**Historical Background:** Increasing concern over the resale of apartment buildings and the transference of the financing costs to tenants resulted in the establishment of this Commission in the fall of 1982. The Commission was to look at all aspects of the rent review process to ensure fair treatment of both landlords and tenants. Volume I contains 65 recommendations while Volume II contains 25. Bill 52, *An Act to Provide for the Regulation of Rents charged for Rental Units in Residential Complexes*, passed December 1986, included some of these recommendations, particularly the establishment of a rent registry for rental complexes and restrictions on "pass through" financing on sales of apartment buildings. Since the Commission was established under the Conservative government and its final report released during the Liberal minority government, some of its major recommendations such as the Fair Market Rent proposal, and the suggestion that new apartment buildings be exempt from rent regulations for five years, were not acted upon.

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## *189 Royal Commission of Inquiry into Certain Deaths at the Hospital for Sick Children and Related Deaths*

Appointed on April 21, 1983 by Order in Council 1076/83 and amended on May 24, 1984 by Order in Council 1412/84 both under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner**: Honourable Mr. Justice Samuel George McDougall Grange.

**Report**: Dated December 28, 1984. xviii, 288 p.

**Report Locations**: OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Rulings, summaries of evidence from the preliminary hearing, proceedings, some exhibits.
**Archives Holdings:** Transcripts, exhibits including medical charts, miscellaneous documents.

**Historical Background:** On March 25, 1981 Nurse Susan Nelles was charged with the murder of four infants at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. A preliminary hearing was subsequently held between January 11 and May 4, 1982. The conclusion of the preliminary hearing was that the evidence against Susan Nelles was entirely circumstantial, and there was no direct evidence of her participation in any of the deaths. Therefore, charges against Nelles were dropped. This Commission was subsequently appointed in April 1983, to investigate the

circumstances of the deaths at the Hospital for Sick Children between July 1, 1980 and March 31, 1981 and the circumstances surrounding the investigation, institution and prosecution of charges arising out of the deaths of four of the infants. Justice Grange concluded that at least eight of the 36 infants who died during this period died from dioxin poisoning and that none of these deaths were the result of accident or medication error. With regard to the arrest and prosecution of Susan Nelles, he found that no great blame could be attached to any party involved in the case although some criticism was made of the police who, he claimed, acted "precipitately" in pressing charges before their investigation was complete. On the whole, however, Justice Grange found that every one did his job and that, ultimately, the system worked. In terms of compensation to Susan Nelles, the Commissioner recommended that she be reimbursed for legal costs incurred from the time of arrest to the conclusion of the preliminary hearing.

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## *190 The Commission on the Regulatory Control of Mobile PCB Destruction Facilities*

Appointed on June 28, 1984 by Order in Council 1772/84 and amended by Order in Council 519/85 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of the Environment.

**Chair:** Mary G. Munro

**Commissioners:** Robert B. Eisen, Q.C., James W. Britnell.

**Report:** Dated June 28, 1985. iii, 113 p. and appendices.

**Report Location:** OTL.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Reports, briefs, notice of hearings.

**Historical Background:** Because of strong public opposition, the Ministry of the Environment was finding it increasingly difficult to establish permanent facilities for the destruction of PCBs (poly-chlorinated biphenyls) in Ontario. In order to resolve this difficulty, the Ministry put forward a proposal to establish mobile PCB destruction units on temporary sites. The Commission was appointed to investigate this proposal and conduct public hearings into the acceptability of the Ministry's regulatory program. The main issues faced by the Commission were whether the facilities could be operated in a safe way and whether applications in respect of specific sites should be exempt from public hearings. On the whole, the Ministry of the Environment's regulatory program was accepted by the Commission with some amendments relating to assurances that Class 1 facilities meet a destruction efficiency for PCBs of 99.9999%. Although the Commission also approved of the

Ministry's proposal to exempt mobile PCB units on temporary sites from the scrutiny of public hearings, public pressure was such that this requirement was reinstated for Class 1 facilities, while Class 2 and 3 remained exempt (O. Reg. 148/86).

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## *191 The Commission on Private Schools in Ontario*

Appointed on July 26, 1984 by Order in Council 2049/84 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Education.

**Commissioner:** Dr. Bernard Shapiro

**Report:** Dated October 31, 1985. 267 p. includes appendices. French and English texts.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Index to briefs, briefs.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established in response to the extension of public funding to the Roman Catholic Separate School system announced on June 12, 1984 by Premier William Davis. Its main purpose was to investigate the possiblity of funding for private schools although it dealt with other matters related to the place of private schools in Ontario's educational system. Although the Commission considered it "inappropriate to continue to offer to its Roman Catholic community an educational option not offered to other communities as well" (p. 48) it did not recommend at that time to extend public funding to private schools. Instead it recommended programmes of "limited support" to independent schools and ways to give parents more choice in educational opportunities for their children. The Commission's 61 recommendations have not yet been acted upon.

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## *192 Judicial Inquiry into the Behaviour of Provincial Judge Lloyd Henrikson*

Appointed on August 27, 1984 by Order in Council 2297/84 under the *Provincial Courts Act*, R.S.O. 1980, on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice Lloyd Houlden.

**Report:** Dated February 1985. v, 71 p. Includes appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Archives Holdings:** Background papers.

**Historical Background:** This Judicial Inquiry was called to investigate complaints brought against Judge Henrikson, a Provincial Court Judge in Windsor, Ontario. The complaints concerned the Judge's relationship with an individual charged with possession of stolen property, as well as the Judge's inappropriate conduct while in a state of intoxication during which he made disparaging and intemperate remarks concerning the Ontario Provincial Police. The recommendation of the Commissioner was that Judge Henrikson be removed from office by reason of conduct that was incompatible with the execution of his office.

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## *193 Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Testing and Marketing of Liquor in Ontario*

Appointed on November 20, 1985 by Order in Council 2709/85 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice John H. Osler

**Report:** First report, dated December 11, 1985. 3 p. and appendices. Final report, dated 1986. xv, 185 p. includes appendices.

**Notes:** The first report established permissible levels of ethyl carbamate in liquors.
**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Reports, newspaper clippings, proceedings.
**Archives Holdings:** Transcripts, exhibits, scrapbooks.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was established in response to the revelation that the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (L.C.B.O.), while knowing for years about the contamination of some wines by ethyl carbamate, a carcinogen, had nevertheless continued to allow the wines to be sold to the public. The Commission was charged with determining how this situation arose and to recommend ways to ensure it did not occur again. The Commission concluded that although the L.C.B.O. laboratory demonstrated a high standard of excellence, the quality control process suffered from the lack of firm administrative policies and inadequate communications, both internal and external. Recommendations, which were generally adopted by the L.C.B.O., involved establishing permissable levels of ethyl carbamate in liquors, written procedures to follow when a product failed a quality test, proper reporting procedures between the laboratory and other L.C.B.O. departments, and the notification of the public immediately upon the confirmation that a product posed a health threat.

## *194 Judicial Inquiry Regarding His Honour Senior Judge Gordon R. Stewart, A Judge of the Provincial Court (Criminal Division) Ontario*

Appointed on December 19, 1985 by Order in Council 3048/85 and amended by Order in Council 7721/86 under the *Courts of Justice Act, 1984* on recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice John David Cromarty, December 19, 1985 to March 21, 1986, Mr. Justice David H.W. Henry, March 21, 1986 to conclusion.

**Report:** Dated March 16, 1987. xi, 44 p. including appendices.

**Report Locations:** OTL, OTAR.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was appointed to investigate matters relating to the behaviour of Senior Judge Stewart of the Provincial Court in Windsor, Ontario. Complaints against the judge concerned several incidents related to the enforcement of the City of Windsor parking by-law no. 6683 and some "intemperate and inappropriate" remarks made during interviews with the media. The Commission was to determine whether these allegations were true, and, if so, whether they warranted Judge Stewart be removed from office. At the first hearing on April 14, 1986, it was learned that Judge Stewart was too ill to attend hearings and that he intended to retire on November 30, 1986. The hearing, therefore, was adjourned. At the next hearing, on December 9, 1986, it was learned that the Judge had in fact retired and remained too ill to attend the hearings. Therefore, the Commissioner concluded that since the Judge no longer held office, there was "no further purpose to continuing the inquiry," and that Judge Stewart's "conduct may be viewed as out of character and attributable to illness."

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## *195 Commission to Investigate Dealings between Patricia Starr and Tridel Corporation, and Elected and Unelected Public Officials*

Appointed on July 6, 1989 by Order in Council 1736/89 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Mr. Justice Lloyd W. Houlden.

**Report:** The Commission was cancelled. No report issued.

**Legislative Library Holdings:** Order in Council.

**Historical Background:** This Commission was struck to inquire into matters arising out of the revelation in May of 1989 that Patti Starr had been making donations to the Liberal Party from funds she administered as president of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada (Toronto Section). Although the Order in Council specifically stated that the Commission was not to express "any conclusion of law regarding the civil or criminal responsibility of any individual or organization" the Supreme Court of Canada passed down a ruling on April 5, 1990 quashing the inquiry on the grounds that its terms of reference made it, in effect, a criminal proceeding. On May 17, 1990 by Order in Council 1274/90 Mr. Justice Houlden was charged with making recommendations as to the disposition of records generated by this Commission.

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### *196 Commission of Inquiry into Unregulated Residential Accommodation*

Appointed on December 20, 1990 by Order in Council 2854/90 on recommendation of the Honourable the Attorney General.

**Commissioner:** Ernie S. Lightman.

**Report:** Interim report. Dated March, 1991. 29, 31 p.

**Note:** Commission in progress (as of December 1991).

**Report Location:** OTL (interim).

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### *197 Commission of Inquiry into the Relationship Between Public and Private Interests in Land-Use Planning*

Appointed on July 1, 1991 by Order in Council 1355/91 under the *Public Inquiries Act*, R.S.O. 1980, c.411 on recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Chair:** John Sewell

**Commissioners:** Toby Vigod and George Penfold.

**Report:** Has not reported yet.

**Note:** Commission in progress (as of December 1991).

## Addenda

### *194A Commission of Inquiry into Niagara Falls Regional Police Force*

Appointed on March 25, 1988 by Order in Council 751/88 under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Solicitor General.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable Judge W.E.C. Colter.

**Report:** Has not reported yet.

**Note:** Commission in progress (as of December 1991).

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### *194B Royal Commission on the Future of the Toronto Waterfront*

Initially appointed on March 30, 1988 by the federal Order in Council PC-1988-589. Subsequently expanded by Ontario Order in Council 2465/89 (further amended by Order in Council 536/91) under the *Public Inquiries Act* on the recommendation of the Honourable the Minister of Municipal Affairs.

**Commissioner:** The Honourable David Crombie.

**Report:** Interim Report. Dated August, 1989. 219 p. Second Interim Report entitled *Watershed.* Dated August, 1990. 207 p. Final Report entitled *Regeneration: Toronto's Waterfront and the Sustainable City.* Dated December, 1991. 530 p.

**Report Location:** OTL.
**Legislative Library Holdings:** Background reports and discussion papers.

**Historical Background:** When this Commission released its first interim report, more than half of the 60 recommendations dealt with environmental issues. Upon its release, the Ontario government issued its own Order in Council which expanded and complemented the Commission's original mandate and made this only the second Commission in Canadian history to serve two levels of government. The second interim report continued the environmental focus and concluded that the ecosystem of the Greater Toronto bioregion could not be sustained over the longer term without fundamental changes. Its recommendations were fully endorsed by both governments. The final report summarizes the previous work of the Commission and suggests methods of implementing the numerous recommendations (such as relocating the Gardiner Expressway). In an attempt to continue the work of the Commission, Ontario introduced a bill on April 6, 1992 which would create the Waterfront Regeneration Trust Agency whose function would be to protect the public's interest in the waterfront.

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# Index to Commissioners

This index includes entries for the names of Commission Chairs and Commissioners only. Commission Counsels and Secretaries are only included when they served as Commissioners. Names of persons who were the subject of an investigation are found in the Topical Index only. All numbers relate to entries rather than pages. The UC- (Upper Canada) prefix denotes entries for Commissions conducted between 1792-1841; PC- (Province of Canada) 1841-1867; and entries beginning at 1 denote Commissions conducted 1867-1991.


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